



THE INDEPENDENT

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THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 1998

(1R50p) 45p

IN THE NEWS SECTION

The final Test: England expects

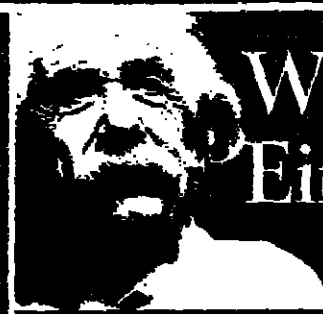
WITH 7 PAGES OF SPORT

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Liffe: all over bar the shouting

REVIEW FRONT



Who's greater: Einstein or Oasis?

EDUCATION

Saddam raises stakes as crisis deepens

THE CRISIS between Iraq and the United Nations deepened dramatically last night when President Saddam Hussein said he would "completely suspend co-operation" with the UN Special Commission in charge of elimination of the country's non-conventional weapons, and with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN in Baghdad AND DAVID USBORNE in New York

A monitoring group representing the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. A government statement said monitoring activities will be allowed on condition that UN "personnel carry out the monitoring strictly respecting Iraq's sovereignty, security and its people's dignity." This means UN experts can no longer search suspected weapons

sites in Iraq or gain access to documents, but monitoring cameras and sensors installed in suspected weapons sites will remain in place. The weapons inspection team cannot operate without Iraqi co-operation. A White House spokesman called President Saddam's latest refusal to co-operate with arms inspectors "a game of cat and mouse" and said any military response would be premature. "We're not willing to play this game," said PJ Crowley, spokesman for the National Security Council.

INSIDE

The background to the brinkmanship page 11

Asked whether the US would respond with troop movements in the Gulf region, as it did when Iraq expelled UN inspectors last year, Mr Crowley said, "Let's wait and see what we hear" from the chief UN weapons inspector, Richard Butler, when he presents findings to the Security Council tomorrow. Speaking in New York

yesterday, Mr Butler said he was mystified by Baghdad's action when resolution of several issues was near. The inspectors were apparently close, in the areas of missiles and chemical weapons, to being able to declare Iraq had complied with UN resolutions. "We were getting there. If this was a five-lap race, we were halfway

into the fifth lap. Why stop the race when you're getting towards the finish line? I don't know." However, he said Iraq's compliance in the area of biological weapons was "in bad shape. We needed a whole lot more. If they are deciding to end co-operation with us, to try and make a run for it on their own, that's very serious, and the Security Council will have to deal with that," Mr Butler said. "It's very important to get rid of these weapons. Why cut and run now? I can't figure it out."

Mr Butler said Iraq had the power to escape the sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait by proving to the UN that it had dismantled its weapons of mass destruction. The ruling Baath party was organising demonstrations in all parts of Baghdad last night in opposition to Mr Butler and in favour of the government decision. Though the demonstrations are hardly spontaneous, there is no doubt there is deep resentment at the way the UN Special Committee examines

the minutiae of Iraqi weapons procurement, but ignores the consequences of prolonging sanctions on Iraqis, a third of whose children are malnourished, according to Unicef. President Saddam has decided that, after eight years, he is not going to allow the inspection process to continue without receiving assurances about the end of sanctions. The impact of sanctions on Iraq is at its most severe at the moment because of the intense heat, leading to frequent power cuts.

Revealed: secret plan for football revolution

A £2BN EUROPEAN football super league would involve as many as 80 clubs, according to secret plans which show for the first time the scale of the soccer mutiny being planned.

The Independent has obtained details of how the organisers have set up a group of five companies based in Holland which will run a 32-club league competition and a knockout "Pro-Cup" involving between 40 and 50 more teams. News of the size of the breakaway came as Manchester United and Arsenal, two of the English teams who, with Liverpool, have been linked to the breakaway, admitted they had been examining the proposals.

The scale of the plans and the advanced nature of negotiations - codenamed Operation Gandalf - forced Uefa, the European football governing body, to claim it had plans for a super league of its own. Uefa said it would unveil its proposals at an executive committee meeting in Lisbon in October. "The difference between Uefa and the other group is that we have to speak to everyone involved before we make any of our intentions public," a spokesman said. Franz Beckenbauer, president of the German club Bayern Munich, said: "Gerhard Aigner [Uefa general secretary] has the plans for a European league in the cupboard. So now he has to open it. I can certainly imagine co-operation between this finance group and Uefa."

Such co-operation, however, may be too late. Documents seen by The Independent suggest the company behind the breakaway, Media Partners International, plans to set up a group of companies registered in Holland for tax reasons. The group will be named the European Football League, or EFL group, and will be controlled by

BY STEVE BOGGAN

EFL Holdings BV in Rotterdam. EFL Properties BV, also based in Holland, will control the intellectual property rights - the commodity to be sold to television companies for millions of pounds each game. In Britain, the breakaway will be governed by two companies, FootballCo and PropertyCo.

Clubs who participate are expected to earn more than double the amount they realise for Uefa competitions, the Champions' League, Cup Winners' Cup and Uefa Cup.

According to planning documents, a certain amount is to



be set aside for investment in "grass-roots" football.

In return for signing away certain rights to the EFL group, clubs will be given a minimum payment, thought to be £20m, and other sums dependent upon their "commercial input", a phrase thought to mean television pulling power.

A letter sent to the tax authorities in Holland by lawyers for Media Partners International says: "Our client intends to set up a group of companies to run an alternative football competition. The targeted first operational year would be the

season starting August 2000. It is envisaged that the new pan-European Football League will comprise two main competitions which will offer an alternative [to] the current Uefa competitions."

The first such competition will be among the top 32 European clubs in the form of a league, possibly split into two divisions. The second will be a knockout tournament featuring as many as 50 or more other clubs and called the Pro-Cup.

The letter describes Uefa-run competitions as "monopolistic" and says returns for clubs are "sub-optimal". It continues: "This results in a deficient and unpredictable revenue stream for clubs from these competitions. Furthermore, the clubs have very little influence on how these competitions are governed and run."

The almost-identical statements issued by Arsenal and Manchester United, the clubs confirmed they were "involved in discussions concerning the formation of proposed new European competitions. We would, however, stress that we are totally committed to the FA Premier League and other domestic competitions and are very mindful of our responsibilities to the governing bodies."

Mike Lee, a spokesman for the Premier League, welcomed the statements from the clubs. "It has become clear that talks have taken place. Once this was confirmed for us last week, we requested certain assurances from the clubs involved, and these assurances have been given to us in writing. [The] statements make clear that they are committed to domestic competitions and to a proper discussion involving the Premiership clubs on future arrangements in Europe."

Uefa targeted, page 2

How I felt the wrath of a bishop...



Emotions run high at the Lambeth Conference as the Right Rev Emmanuel Chukwuma points an accusing finger at Clare Garner John Voos

...as the Church votes for gay ban

PERHAPS IT is a little unwise to tell a bishop that his use of Bible quotations is selective. Without warring, the chubby finger complete with huge square-cut purple amethyst came jabbing towards my face. "Do you know the wording of Corinthians?" the Right Rev Emmanuel Chukwuma, Bishop of Enugu, Nigeria, shouted accusingly. When his question happened to be answered in the affirmative, he was momentarily wrong-footed. And changed tack. "Are you a lesbian?"

BY CLARE GARNER

a devilish woman", he turned on his heel and stormed off in a flush of episcopal purple.

Displays of such extreme emotion are not what one comes to expect at Lambeth Conference, which is being held in Canterbury. It is after all a Christian occasion. But Bishop Chukwuma's outburst was characteristic of the high emotion seen before the climactic vote on the issue of homosexuality.

After the intensely heated two-hour debate, 526 of the 750 assembled bishops backed a highly conservative resolution on sexuality stating that it could not "advise the legitimising or blessing of same-sex unions, or the ordaining of those involved in same-gender unions."

Instead it provided two options: "faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union" or

"chastity" for those "not called to marriage".

The hours leading up to the vote saw scenes of unprecedented vitriol, near violence and when argument failed, the prolific and unsolicited laying on of hands. "Father, in the name of Jesus, deliver him. Father I pray to you, make him a Christian, in the name of Jesus. Hallelujah, hallelujah," roared Bishop Chukwuma, crowning the head of the Rev Richard Kyrle, the bewildered general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Somewhat Mr Kyrle managed to keep his cool, returning the compliment with the words: "May God bless you and deliver you from your prejudice against human creation."

The only hope of reconciliation came when Mr Kyrle let slip that he was born in Nigeria and had lived there until he was 18. The bishop softened

briefly, until Mr Kyrle added: "I had my first sexual experience there."

Inside the Plenary Hall, the Most Rev Robert Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, brought all his experience as both a lawyer and a broker of peace in Northern Ireland to bear in his role as chair of the sexuality debate. He pleaded that bishops should make their three-minute presentations "prayerfully". But there was no holding back the bishops. The Bishop of Lahore, the Rt Rev Alexander Malik, revealed the depth of his concern. "What happens if we have people asking for the blessing of their relationships with pets, with their cats and dogs?" he asked the assembly. "Will you bring that to the next conference?"

Speaking out against homosexuality was not "gay-bashing", but "a matter of safe doctrine and gospel," he said.

He was unapologetic about not permitting practising gays to be ordained clergy. "There's no discrimination," Bishop Malik said. "They're not qualified for the job."

The liberal view was left to, perhaps appropriately, a woman; Catherine Roskam, the Bishop of New York, who warned of the consequences of the resolution.

"It will lead to a divided church," she said. "I respect the African bishops who say that to condone homosexuality would be evangelical suicide, but to condemn homosexuality in the form it has been in this resolution would itself be evangelical suicide in my region."

Last night members of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement were consoling themselves - in a Canterbury pub, appropriately called The Bishop's Finger.

Hardline bishops, page 2

INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
SECTION 2, PAGE 24

HOME
The first terrorist prisoners to be released as part of the Good Friday pact could be free by the end of August
PAGE 5

HOME
Britain should abandon the engineered defences of some of its coastline and let the sea flood in
PAGE 6

POLITICS
A "flawed" privatisation by the last Government lost the taxpayer £160m, a committee of MPs said
PAGE 8

FOREIGN
Stinking rubbish dumps at the edge of the Kosovo town of Orahovac may hide mass Albanian graves
PAGE 11

BUSINESS
The FTSE 100 share index fell 103 points despite a recovery on Wall Street after Tuesday's tumble
PAGE 16

SPORT
Brian Lara scored his first century for 14 months in an innings of 224 runs for Warwickshire
PAGE 26

9 770951 946542
32

Mostly dry with **PIMM'S** breaking out towards early evening.

INDEX

HOME NEWS PAGES 2-10

East End funeral for a 'real gent'

There's nothing like a traditional East End funeral to bring on a collective rush of nostalgia, and when they gathered to pay respects to Lenny McLean, it was no exception. **Page 5**

'Corrupt' officer used Gladiator

A senior police officer used TV Gladiator Warrior as a go-between when he attempted to sell information to a criminal gang, a court heard. **Page 6**

Male nurses leapfrog the women

Male nurses climb the career ladder much quicker than their female counterparts despite women having better qualifications and more experience in the profession. **Page 10**

FOREIGN NEWS PAGES 11-15

Israeli murders raise tensions

The crisis in the stagnant Israeli-Palestinian peace process deepened following the overnight murder of two Jewish settlers by unknown Arab gunmen. **Page 12**

Anger over Greece fire damage

Firefighters brought a four-day-old forest blaze under control near Athens but the government was attacked for failing to prevent the destruction of homes. **Page 12**

BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 16-21

AA to reverse out of high street

The AA launched an economy drive that will see it withdraw from the high street. **Page 16**

Woolwich seeks joint venture

Woolwich building society may create a joint venture with an insurance company. **Page 17**

SPORTS NEWS PAGES 22-28

Reds turn their sights on Yorke

Manchester United hope to sign Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa this week following Patrick Kluivert's decision not to move to Old Trafford from Milan. **Page 28**

Donald fined for Test comments

Allan Donald, the South African bowler, has been fined half his match fee and given a one-match suspended ban for criticising an umpire after the Fourth Test. **Page 28**

THURSDAY REVIEW 24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David Aaronovitch

'Tony Blair has come to the leadership of this country with less of a complete world-view than practically any Prime Minister since Pitt the Younger.' **Page 3**

Donald Dewar

'If Gus Macdonald's appointment helps us understand business better, then that alone would be justification for having his help inside the Scottish Office.' **Page 4**

Hamish McRae

'There are some cronies in the Labour ranks and, if you want to know who they are, just look at who was associated with the late Robert Maxwell.' **Page 5**

Letters	2	Education	15-17
Leaders and comment	3-5	Fast Track	18-20
Obituaries	6-7	Listings	21-22
Law report	7	Radio, Satellite TV	23
Features	8-10	Concise crossword	23
Arts, Film	11-14	Today's TV	24

Cryptic crossword, section one, page 28



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycling news today in 62% of the new edition of the Independent

Hardline bishops ban gay priests

ANGLICAN BISHOPS yesterday voted to adopt a hardline stance on homosexuality after a highly-charged debate at a conference in Canterbury.

The 750 bishops from 38 provinces across the world declared homosexual relationships "incompatible" with the Bible and upheld the ban on the ordination of gay priests and the blessing of same-sex marriages.

The move will dismay gay rights activists and liberal bishops who hoped gay marriages and practising homosexual priests would be allowed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, endorsed the decision of the conference and insisted there was "no room for any sexual activity outside matrimony".

Outside the conference hall Bishop John Schofield, from California, said that the vote should spell the end of the ordination of gay priests. He added: "If they continue they do so in contradiction to the voice of the Anglican community and of the scripture."

"There is no more authoritative body than the worldwide Anglican Communion that has met here this afternoon. If a small province were to fly in the face of that it would put itself on the very edge of a split."

The Lambeth Conference is held only every 10 years and has no legal binding on bishops but is seen as a powerful influence of opinion on the church.

A sub-committee of bishops had been discussing the issue for the first two weeks of the three-week conference and had put forward a "compromise" resolution that many conserv-



The Most Rev Robin Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, starts yesterday's homosexuality debate

John Voss

atives felt was "too wishy washy".

But liberals were concerned at the insistence that the blessing of gay marriages and the ordaining of gay priests was not acceptable and that celibacy was the only option for homosexuals.

During a passionate two-hour debate bishops added five amendments to the original resolution, hardening the stance on gay issues. They voted to add a line saying the conference rejected "homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture". The original

motion said "chastity" was right for those outside marriage, which pleased reformers who thought it softened the previous line of celibacy. But bishops amended "chastity" to "abstinence" and replaced a line condemning homophobia with a sentence

condemning "the irrational fear of homosexuals".

The only concession to the liberals was a line by the Bishop of Wolverhampton, Michael Bourke, which called on the church to "commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual people".

The football deal that could make millions

THE BUSINESSMEN behind the multi-billion deal to lure top clubs into two new Continental competitions have one main aim - to destroy Uefa, the governing body of European football.

Growing discontent among clubs over their earnings from European competitions - and the limited opportunities for taking part - has allowed a high-powered syndicate backed by huge media interests to seize the initiative.

According to plans obtained by *The Independent*, Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool are being lured into taking part with the promise of more money and more regular opportunities for earning it.

In a letter to the Tax Ruling Team of the Dutch Belastingdienst Grote Ondernemingen -

BY STEVE BOGGAN and ANDREW MULLINS

the Inspector for Large Enterprises - in Rotterdam, KPMG Meijburg & Co (tax lawyers for Media Partners International - the company behind the break-away), spells out the case:

"Currently, the European Football market is governed by a monopolistic competition organiser, Uefa... [whose] exploitation of European club games could be seen as sub-optimal. This results in a deficient and unpredictable revenue stream for the clubs from these competitions."

"Furthermore, the clubs have very little influence on how these competitions are governed and run."

"Our client intends to set up a group of companies to run an

alternative football competition. The targeted first operational year would be the season starting August 2000.

"It is envisaged that the new pan-European Football League will comprise two main competitions which will offer an alternative [to] the current Uefa competitions."

The first, it says, will be among the top 32 European clubs in the form of a league competition. The second will be a knockout tournament featuring as many as 50 or more other clubs.

In order to achieve this, five companies will be set up under the European Football League, (or EFL) group banner. These will include EFL Holdings BV and EFL Property BV, both to be set up in Holland because of tax advantages. In the UK, the

venture will be run by FootballCo and PropertyCo, where "property" refers to intellectual property rights.

The venture is being underwritten by JP Morgan investment bankers and the Morgan Guaranty Trust to the tune of \$3.23bn (around £2bn) for the first three years.

At the helm of Media Partners International is Rodolfo Hecht, the former chairman of Fininvest - the holding company for the vast media interests of Silvio Berlusconi (the former Italian leader).

The company and its publicists, Brunswick Public Relations, refuse to say whether Mr Berlusconi is involved.

However, *The Independent* has established that Media Partners is paying £125,000 (£12,500) per month by way of

a "retainer" to a Paris-based company called Fininvest. An examination of Media Partners' accounts at Companies House suggests that such a payment could be crippling, as it is a dormant company worth only £4,489.

Many media observers now believe Rupert Murdoch could be teaming up with Mr Berlusconi to launch a pan-European operation using football as a viewer bait.

As reported in *The Independent* yesterday, they are understood to be in talks with the German media mogul Leo Kirch and the Saudi Arabian Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal, who owns a number of media interests.

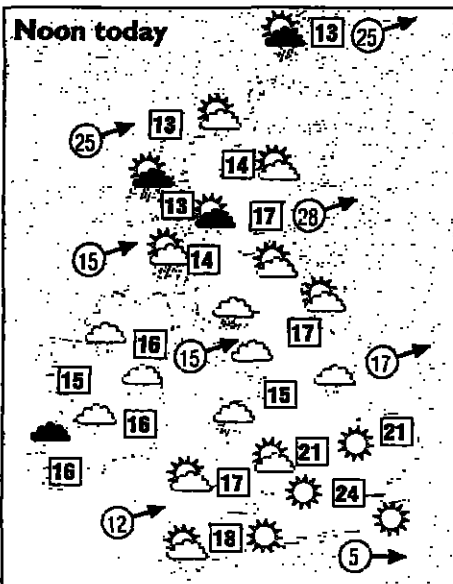
Whoever owns the venture, they are promising rich rewards. According to the plans

seen by *The Independent*, clubs will be paid a proportion of the cake "on the basis of the commercial input of the club" - in other words, above a guaranteed amount, thought to be £20m per club per season, success is rewarded by cash.

It is understood each club will have to assign certain television rights to EFL Holdings BV in return for the minimum guaranteed amount. In turn EFL "will realise an arms-length taxable profit in the Netherlands."

Correspondence seen by *The Independent* suggests that the company has been advised to reduce payments from the EFL group in Holland to the English arm, FootballCo, in return for help with "start-up costs". That way, FootballCo would pay less UK tax.

BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK
Rain will soon clear eastern Scotland to leave all parts of the country with a blustery day of sunshine and showers - the showers becoming mainly confined to the west and north. Northern Ireland, northern England and northern Wales will be mostly cloudy with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle, but this will ease and peter out at times with north-east England brightening in the afternoon. Southern Wales and remaining parts of England will have decent spells of hot sunshine.

NEXT FEW DAYS
On Friday there will be rain in north-west England and Northern Ireland, but elsewhere it will be dry with sunny spells. There will be rain in Scotland and Northern Ireland on Saturday, but it will be hot with long sunny spells elsewhere. Overnight rain will clear Scotland and Northern Ireland on Sunday to sunny spells and blustery showers. Northern England may see a little light rain but it will be dry and hot elsewhere.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

	21.15	to	05.44
Belfast	21.15	to	05.44
Birmingham	20.51	to	05.38
Bristol	20.50	to	05.43
Glasgow	21.14	to	05.32
London	20.41	to	05.33
Manchester	20.56	to	05.34
Newcastle	21.00	to	05.25

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	01:00	6.1	13:25	6.4
Liverpool	10:51	8.5	23:11	8.9
Swanmouth	06:34	11.9	19:00	12.5
Hull	05:48	7.9	18:20	7.9
Greenock	12:12	3.0	00:47	3.2
Dun Laoghaire	11:20	3.6	23:30	3.6

AIR QUALITY

	PM10	Pollen	O3
London	Good	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	05.32
Sun sets:	20.41
Moon rises:	19.31
Moon sets:	03.59
Full moon:	August 8

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecast dial 0800 5008 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map (right). Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon

KEY: C: cloudy; Cl: clear; F: fair; Pg: fog; H: haze; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; Sl: sleet; Sh: showers; Sn: snow; Th: thunder.

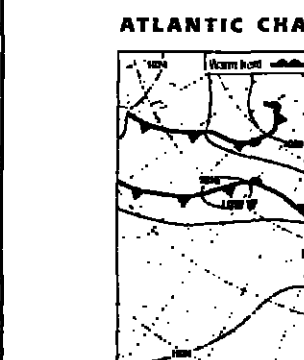
Aberdeen	F	19	66
Anglesey	C	17	63
Armagh	C	16	61
Belfast	C	17	63
Birmingham	F	22	72
Bristol	C	16	61
Bournemouth	S	23	73
Brighton	S	20	68
Burnley	S	20	68
Cardiff	C	18	64
Cardiff	D	15	59
Dover	C	24	75
Dublin	C	18	64
Edinburgh	C	16	61
Exeter	S	21	70
Glasgow	C	15	58
Gloucester	C	20	68
Harrogate	C	16	61
Imperial	C	23	73
Isle of Man	C	18	64
Isle of Wight	S	21	70
Jarvis	F	16	61
Liverpool	F	16	61
London	F	24	75
Manchester	C	18	64
Newcastle	F	24	75
Nottingham	F	22	72
Orkney	C	19	66
Physborough	F	22	72
Scarborough	F	22	72
Southampton	S	24	75
Southend	C	24	75
Stamford	C	15	59
Stamford	C	18	64
York	C	18	64

AIR QUALITY

	PM10	Pollen	O3
London	Good	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY

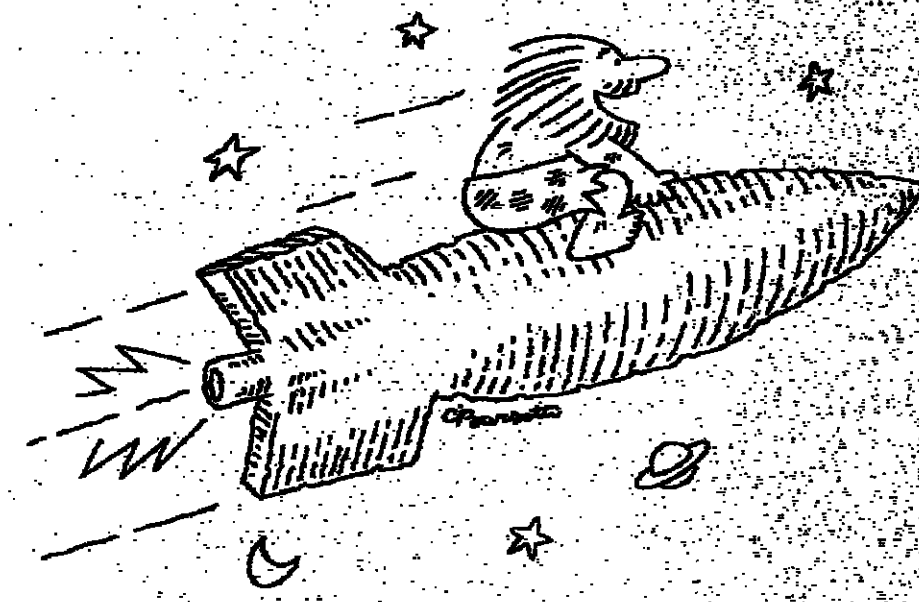


Lows V and W will move rapidly eastwards. High B will continue to slowly drift east while declining slightly.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Algeria	S	33	91
Alexandria	S	32	90
Algiers	S	27	81
Amman	S	28	84
Amsterdam	C	18	64
Ankara	S	30	92
Athens	S	30	92
Auckland	F	12	54
Bahia	S	24	75
Bangkok	S	27	81
Barcelona	S	28	82
Batavia	S	26	79
Bombay	S	28	82
Buenos Aires	S	26	79
Burgas	S	26	79
Calcutta	S	28	82
Cairo	S	34	92
Calgary	S	26	79
Cape Town	S	26	79
Caracas	S	28	82
Chongqing	S	30	90
Christchurch	S	12	54
Cologne	S	22	72
Copenhagen	S	17	63
Corfu	S	30	92
Dakar	S	29	84
Darwin	S	29	84
Delhi	S	31	94
Dhaka	S	31	94
Dublin	C	18	64
Edinburgh	C	16	61
Frankfurt	S	22	72
Glasgow	C	15	58
Hankow	S	23	73
Hong Kong	S	33	91
Hull	C	18	64
Imperial	C	23	73
Isle of Man	C	18	64
Isle of Wight	S	21	70
Jakarta	S	30	92
Jeddah	S	36	97
Johannesburg	S	30	92
Kobe	S	26	79
Kuala Lumpur	S	28	82
London	F	24	75
Los Angeles	S	32	90
Luanda	S	28	82
Luoyang	S	22	72
Madagascar	S	30	92
Malaga	S	28	82
Manila	S	29	84
Marseille	S	28	82
Medan	S	28	82
Meppen	S	28	82
Mexico City	S	33	91
Miami	S	30	92
Minneapolis	S	28	82
Moscow	S	23	73
Mumbai	S	28	82
Nairobi	S	28	82
Nagasaki	S	28	82
Nassau	S	28	82
New Delhi	S	33	91
New Orleans	S	32	90
New York	S	28	82
Niagara	S	29	84
Osaka	S	31	94
Ottawa	S	28	82
Paris	S	28	82
Peking	S	30	90
Porto	S	24	75
Port Stanley	S	18	59
Prague	S	21	70
Rangoon	S	28	82
Roskilde	S	22	72
Rio de Janeiro	S	24	75
Riyadh	S	30	92
Sao Paulo	S	28	82
Santiago	S	28	82
Sao Tomé	S	28	82
Seoul	S	28	82
Shanghai	S	30	92
Singapore	S	30	92
Stockholm	S	28	82
Sydney	S	28	82
Taipei	S	30	92
Tel Aviv	S	30	92
Tokyo	S	30	92
Toronto	S	28	82
Ulaanbaatar	S	28	82
Valencia	S	28	82
Vancouver	S	28	82
Vladivostok	S	28	82
Washington	S	28	82
Wellington	S	28	82
Zurich	S	28	82

Wherever your business is going, it pays to be ahead of your time.



e-business from BT is helping thousands of businesses to exploit new, more efficient ways of doing business. Hemmington Scott for instance, recently spotted the huge potential of e-commerce by offering their services for sale on-line. Using BT Aray, they have enabled their customers to make micro-payments for copies of company reports on their web site. It's a fast, secure and economical way of doing business.

The number of repeat orders has proved to them that there is an increasing demand for companies to offer on-line trading

Waste dumped secretly on motorways turns Britain into dustbin of Europe

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

BRITAIN IS regarded as a "soft touch" by criminal gangs from Germany and Holland who are coming here to dump cocktails of toxic chemical waste, according to Interpol UK.

Lorry-loads of liquid chemical waste have been deliberately leaked on to the M25 by drivers who circle the motorway at night until their tanks are empty, then drive back to Dover.

Containers full of waste have been discovered dumped at big east coast ports, including Harwich and Felixstowe, where they can remain undetected for years, hidden among other freight.

Paul Andrews, environmental crime specialist at Interpol UK, which is based at the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said: "British law enforcement in this area is not as high-profile as in other European countries, which all have specific police departments to deal with environmental crime. The criminals know that."

A Government working party on Transfrontier Shipments of Waste has been set up, comprising the Environment Agency, Interpol, the Home Office and the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions.

The waste being dumped is typically a dark mixture of contaminated solvents like carbon tetrachloride and acetone, which cannot be broken down. Leaked into a sewer, the waste would destroy the biological activity of sewage treatment works, meaning that other sewage went untreated.

If the chemical waste escaped into a fresh-water sewer it would kill fish and seep into sediment, causing long-term damage to river ecology.

The criminal waste dumpers are arriving in Britain with false documentation declaring their load to be harmless "green list" waste or a legitimate chemical product. Customs officers face difficulties in



Domestic waste on a land-fill site in England. Criminals from Europe are using Britain as a dumping ground for toxic waste

David Hoffman

distinguishing toxic waste from other substances and rarely call in Environment Agency inspectors to test the material.

Mr Andrews said: "Very few officials would know if it was toxic. As Interpol, we would like to see people at the ports with better training on what to look for."

He said that police environmental specialists in other European countries had told

him Britain was the weak link in the fight against illegal dumping of toxic waste. "They have asked us to increase our efforts," he said.

The disposal of toxic waste, particularly from the chemical factories of former East Germany, has been identified by German criminals as an effective method of money-laundering.

In Britain, responsibility for

policing toxic waste dumping falls to the Environment Agency, which admitted there were difficulties identifying the smugglers.

Alex Tovey, international waste specialist at the agency, said: "Because the importers know we are thin on the ground and not really looking at environmental crime the way we should be they are getting away with it."

Inspectors recently foiled some east German drivers who made repeated attempts to dump cargoes of wooden railway supports soaked with the pesticide DDT.

Part of the problem is due to the difficulties of detecting illegal waste shipments among the traffic of waste that is brought to Britain to be disposed of lawfully.

The Environment Agency is

also concerned about lawful applications to import contaminated waste. Dutch importers have asked to bring in contaminated concrete for use on new motorways. Irish firms have applied to import soil contaminated with hazardous waste for use in Millennium projects.

Greenpeace is concerned that PVC waste from Germany is being delivered legally to Britain to be used as a cheap

surface for horse-riding schools or to be recycled into traffic cones.

Independent environmental consultant Alan Watson said there was no need for Britain to be importing any chemical waste.

"Each country has its own facilities for handling such material and there is no reason why we should have any expertise in treating it," he said.

A LITANY OF WASTE

Chemical/Industrial
Sometimes dumped in unidentified drums or leaked from tankers. Highly damaging to sewage treatment works and river ecology. Now being dumped in Britain by criminal gangs from Germany and Holland.

Clinical
Includes severed limbs and other body parts from hospital operations as well as syringes, swabs and other medical waste. The Environment Agency has caught unscrupulous contractors, hired by NHS trusts, dumping the material in warehouses.

Asbestos/Construction
Stripped from factories, or the results of building demolition it requires high-cost disposal at specified landfill sites. Encouraging rogue firms to dump it in rivers, country lanes and cul-de-sacs.

Household
Skip companies who are reluctant to pay for landfill disposal empty unwanted furniture and other waste at fly tips. Tyres, which are unsuitable for landfill sites, are dumped by their thousands in empty warehouses.

Farm Waste
Silage and slurry which seeps into rivers after spillage. Some farmers make heavy use of pesticides, especially sheep-dips, and inorganic fertilisers which are blamed for polluting soil and rivers.

CFCs
Banned ozone-depleting gases formerly used in refrigeration. Linked to the death of two council workers who were exposed to toxic fumes in a sewer in south Wales in 1996.

Radioactive
Imported from Eastern Europe in scrap metal. Difficult to detect, and carriers may not realise it is radioactive. Some caught by Customs officers at ports but scrap dealers have dumped it illegally.

Dirty farmers are accused of ruining the landscape

BY IAN BURRELL

DUMPING AND pollution are having a devastating effect on soil and threatening to destroy the beauty of the English landscape. It was claimed yesterday.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England produced a Soil Charter, calling for the Government to take urgent action to prevent the loss of "a vital living resource".

The CPRE said that only farmers who managed their soil responsibly should receive agricultural support payments. The action follows research which found that the over-use

of inorganic fertilisers is leaving soil vulnerable to erosion by water and wind.

The chemicals are also leaching into underground water supplies, particularly in the shallow soils of the Cotswolds and the sandlands of Nottinghamshire. In Norfolk and the Suffolk Valley the leaching of sulphur dioxide and ammonia from industrial and agricultural sources is causing soil to be over-acidic. And atmospheric pollution is respon-

sible for damage to the soils underlying mosslands to the north of Liverpool.

Alan Titchmarsh, who presents gardening programmes on television and radio, spoke out for the CPRE. "We owe much more to soil than many would believe. The variation in soils underpins the beauty and diversity of the English landscape. Soil also acts as a filter and reservoir for water, regulating flow to groundwaters and rivers."

Gregor Hutcheon, CPRE's Rural Affairs Officer, said there

were concerns that soil might be harmed by the practice of spreading sewage and paper pulp directly onto land.

"Water and waste authorities are not able to dispose into the sea, so they are looking for alternatives," he said. "But there are concerns that the material could contain heavy metals."

The CPRE wants the Government to take tough action against polluters and dumpers and introduce measures to counteract soil erosion, as part of a Soil Protection Strategy due to be published later this year.

Labour policy-maker attacks party's brash 'new laddism'

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE co-founder of Tony Blair's favourite think-tank has accused the Government of being dominated by a "new lad" culture that poses a danger to democracy.

Helen Wilkinson, the project director at Demos, which is behind some of New Labour's most radical ideas, claimed that "control freaks" and "addicts" made a mockery of the party's attempts to present itself as open and progressive. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, Alastair Campbell, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson, and the disgraced lobbyist, Derek Draper, all had "addictive personalities" that left women in the party feeling alienated, Ms Wilkinson said.

In a highly provocative article in today's *New Statesman*, she said that the "new lad" culture lay at the heart of the cronyism that characterised the Government today. "The political game has be-



Wilkinson: Outsider

come a breeding ground for control freaks and addictive personalities," she said. "It is notable that control freaks and addicts of some description gather around new Labour's inner coterie. (Alastair Campbell is a former alcoholic turned media addict, Gordon Brown a self-confessed workaholic, Derek Draper a media and political addict.) There are signs that this addictive culture has already begun."

Although an independent organisation, Demos has

worked closely with Labour, both in opposition and in government, and today's attack is likely to cause embarrassment at a time when ministers are fending off claims of cronyism and improper lobbying. Geoff Mulgan, another co-founder of the group, now works in the Downing Street policy unit and leads the Government's plans on social exclusion.

Ms Wilkinson said that her love affair with New Labour began to turn sour when she returned from America recently to read accounts of Derek Draper's involvement in the "cash-for-access" row.

"As the story unfolded in the newspapers, the photo images focused on the boys (yes, all boys) surrounding new Labour. New Labour women have been noticeably absent from this scandal. Where it really counts (lobbying, policy wonkery and spin mastery) power remains in male hands."

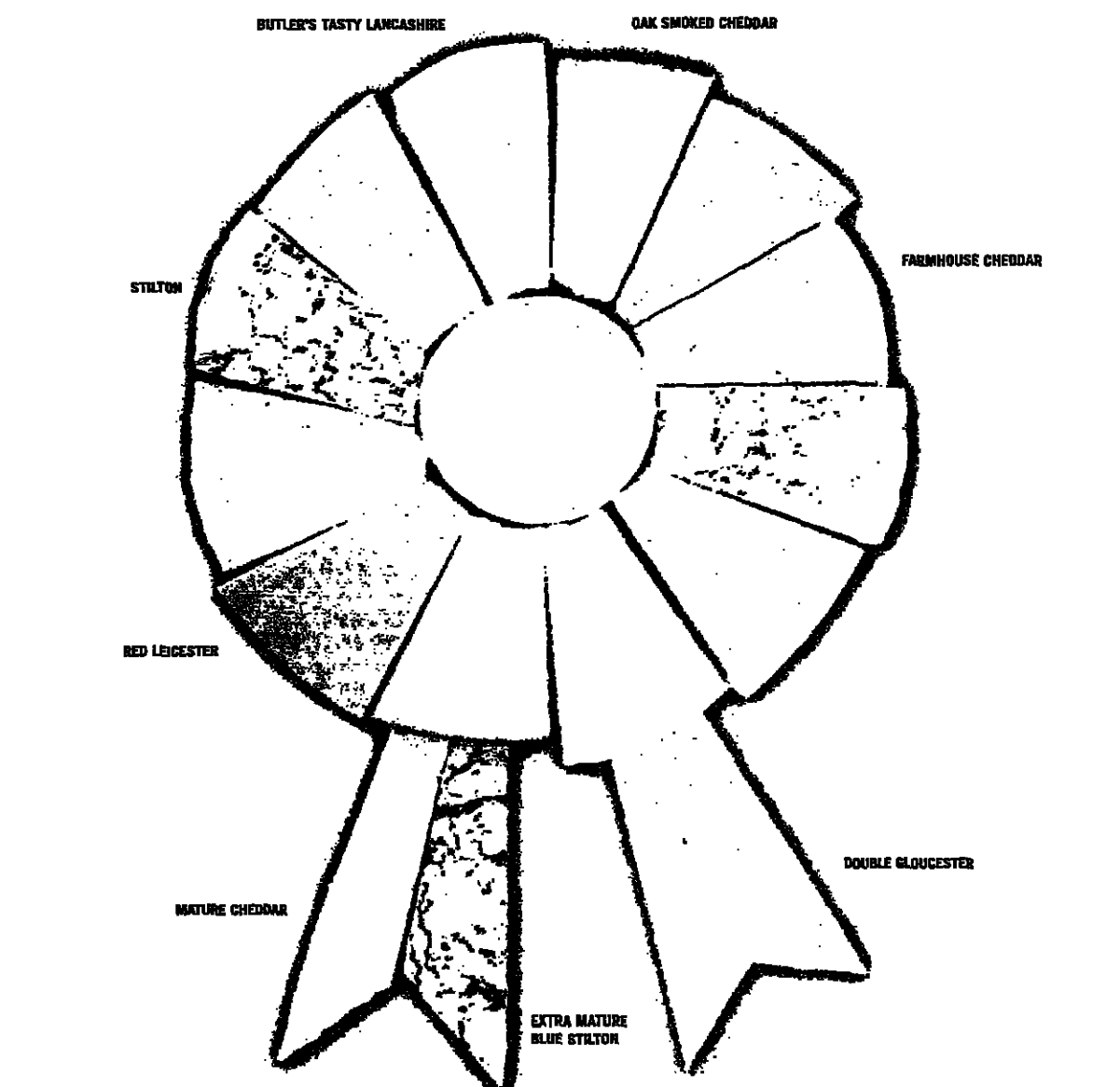
"Now I feel an outsider in a New Labour culture which parades rootless, individualistic, brash and boastful boys. Drapergate does not just expose distribution of power in

Britain, it casts a shadow over Blair's claim to be championing 'new politics'."

She said that photo opportunities showing Tony Blair enjoying a beer and playing football with the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, proved that new laddery stretched to the very top. Similarly, she revealed that brainstorming sessions at Chequers were regularly rounded off with five-a-side football games between advisers. "This 'new lad' culture seems harmless enough and is justified in terms of team bonding. The problem is that team bonding too readily turns to male bonding. The old boys' network may have progressed from golf to football, but the fundamental rules are the same," she said.

"This love of power, this fixation on control, is very Thatcherite (and many of the new Labour acolytes are Thatcher's children)."

The "ego-driven, brash and boastful boys" now had unprecedented control, but their love of power could become new Labour's "Achilles' heel", she warned.



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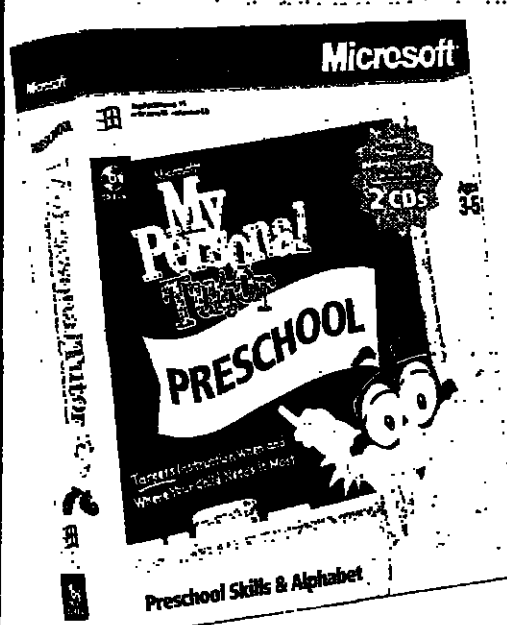
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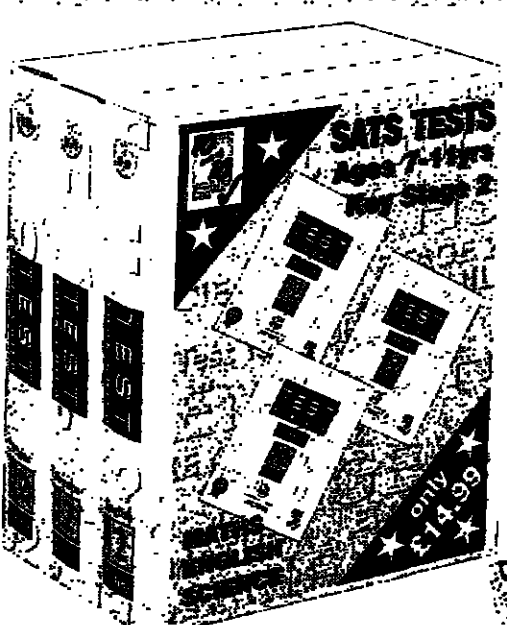
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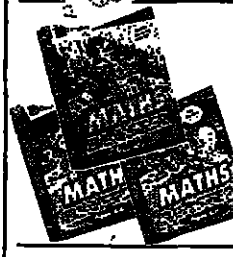
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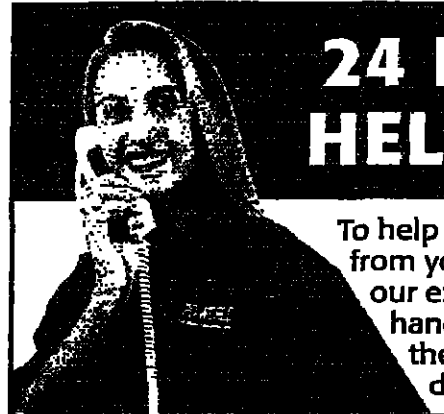
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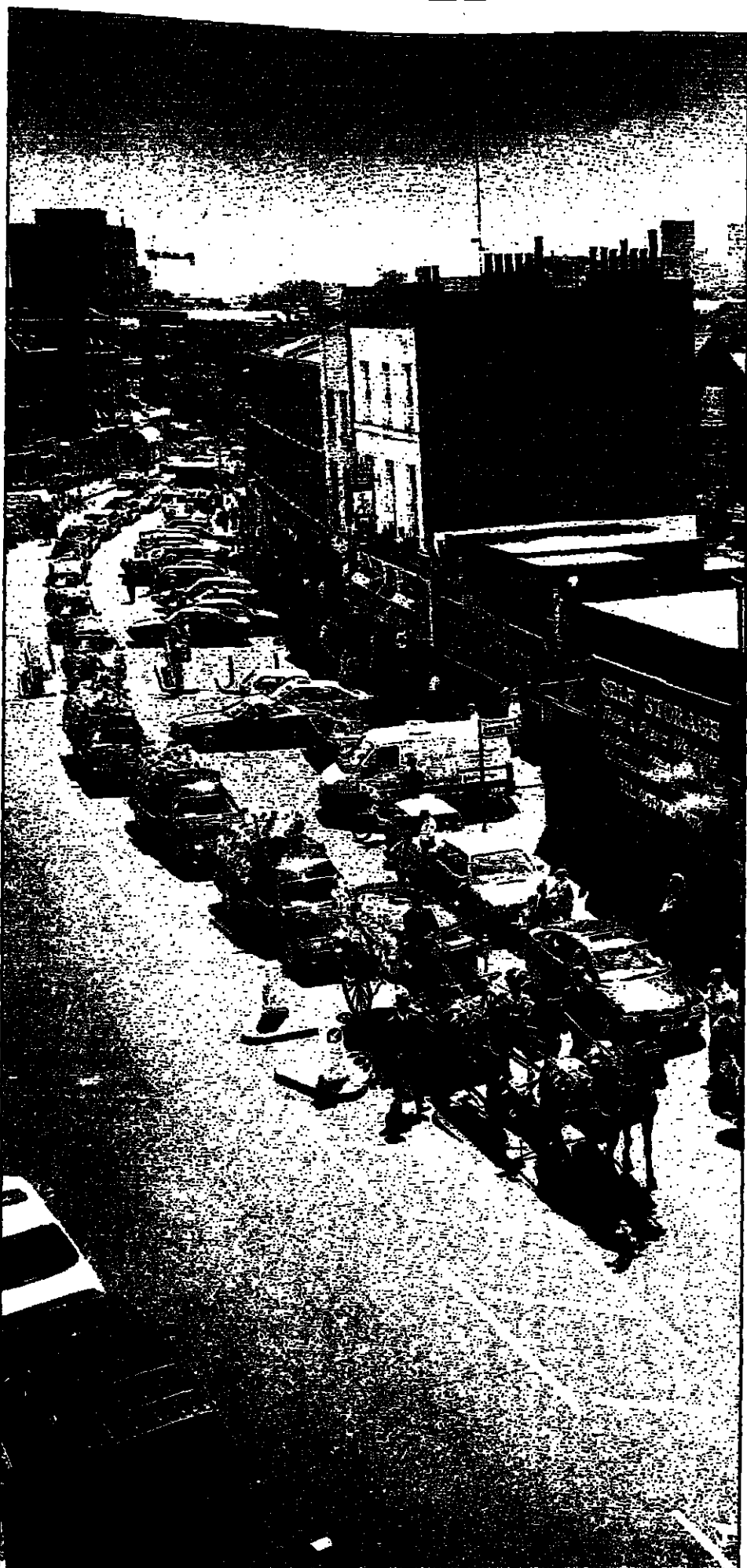
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The funeral procession passing through Hoxton High Street

Brian Harris



Lenny McLean (above) in action as a bare-knuckle fighter. Right: Mourners at the funeral in east London yesterday

Brian Harris

East End send-off for a 'diamond geezer'

THEY LOVE harking back to the old days in the East End of London - the Blitz, the Queen Mum and that rosy era when the Kray twins bestrode their territory like benevolent giants.

There's nothing like a traditional East End funeral to bring on a collective rush of nostalgia, and yesterday, when they gathered to pay final respects to Lenny McLean, was no exception.

Lenny was the type of man usually referred to by polite society as a "colourful character". Cockney blood coursed through every vein of his 6ft 3in, 20-stone body. He was a bare-knuckle prize-fighter, a night-club bouncer, a convicted criminal and, most recently, an actor and author.

He was also, naturally, a "diamond geezer". For it is part of local custom to eulogise these hard men of the East End posthumously, regardless of their rough edges. (Lenny

BY KATHY MARKS

spent a fair bit of his life behind bars, including an 18-month spell for grievous bodily harm in 1982).

"Larger than life, a real gent," sighed Maureen Flanagan, a former model and page three girl, surveying the floral tributes outside the funeral parlour in Hoxton High Street. "He was a devoted family man," added Ms Flanagan, looking every inch the part, in skintight black dress, black stilettoes, long peroxide blonde hair and black alligator-skin handbag.

Lenny was already a legend before he died of cancer last week, aged 49. Unbeaten in 3,000 unlicensed bouts, he was once flown out to New York to take on the Mafia's leading fighter, John McCormack. The Mafia man lasted less than three minutes.

Like many successful East

Enders, Lenny had moved out to more agreeable environs, in his case suburban Bexleyheath, in Kent. But his final journey, to the City of London Crematorium, began in Hoxton, in the heart of the East End, where he was born and bred.

Just up the road is Hoxton Square - once seedy, now transformed by the developers, full of loft apartments and bars so trendy it hurts. The high street, though, is still vintage East End, scruffy, faded, bustling. Yesterday, a crowd of shoppers and passers-by watched as the cortege drew up, headed by 13 stretch limos, a Rolls and a Bentley. Curious locals hung out of windows; lunchtime drinkers in the Bacchus pub spilled out on to the pavement.

The air was heavy with the sickly sweet smell of flowers, from the dozens of wreaths laid outside Cooke's Pie and Mash Shop, the East End landmark next door to the funeral

parlour. "Len, love you always, your Val," read a tribute in white chrysanthemums from Lenny's wife.

Soon after 1pm, six bury men shouldered the oak coffin on to the hearse, a Victorian carriage drawn by four plumed horses. A woman with sunburnt arms dabbed her eyes as the procession set off on its five-mile journey.

Among the mourners was the obligatory scattering of sharp-suited men in dark glasses who could have walked straight off the set of *The Godfather*.

They stood around looking tough, and not a little self-conscious, arms folded across their barrel chests. The sun glinted off a razor scar on the cheek of one hard-faced man.

Some of them were not just playing the part. Tony Lambrianou, for instance, who served 15 years for his part in the murder of Jack "the Hat" McVitie.

Silver-haired Lambrianou, holding court outside the Iceland supermarket, said: "Lenny was a lion in the ring and a lamb outside it."

Charlie Kray, older brother of the twins, is currently back in one of Her Majesty's institutions, but sent an emissary who said he was "devastated" about his friend's death.

The world of soccer was represented, appropriately enough, by "hard man" Vinnie Jones. Jones recalled the man nicknamed *The Guv'nor* with fondness. "His motto to me was 'have respect for your opponents and have respect for the people you love'."

These are the rituals that punctuate East End life, but not for much longer. As Lambrianou pointed out, all the old lags are dying off. "There are not many of us left," he lamented. "And our children are not going into the family business; that's the tragedy of it."

Ulster terrorists may be freed by end of month

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE FIRST terrorist prisoners to be released from jail early as part of the Northern Ireland Good Friday agreement could be free by the end of the month.

The body set up to deal with the most contentious issues facing the settlement, said yesterday that if the paperwork was done quickly enough, some prisoners could be home within weeks.

"If the application forms come in next week, then we could be seeing prisoners released by the end of August," said Sir John Belloch, joint chairman of the Sentence Review Commission.

"We are very conscious of the responsibility we bear in discharging our task and of its sensitivity in the community."

Sir John said that, as a result of this, the commission would be consulting victims' groups about the release procedure. Under the terms of the

agreement reached last April and approved by two referenda, 400 to 420 paramilitary prisoners from the IRA, UDA and UVF are eligible for release within two years.

The agreement said only paramilitaries whose organisations have announced ceasefires are eligible and there is a requirement to serve a third of their sentence.

The UVF, Continuity IRA, the Real IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army, which have not announced ceasefires, are excluded from the scheme.

While each application will be considered individually, it is expected that people to be released soon will include the Balcombe Street Gang, the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee, Milltown cemetery

killer Michael Stone and Shankill Butcher William Moore. Ken Maginnis, security spokesman for the Ulster Unionists, said yesterday: "However unpalatable, the UUP will not back away from its commitment to the agreement."

However, he questioned whether a genuine ceasefire was in place and said that as such the Government should not go ahead with the release.

Glyn Roberts, development officer with the pressure group Families Against Intimidation and Terror (FAIT), said a number of victims were fearful about the release of people imprisoned for violence.

"The problem is that the paramilitaries have not stopped violence. There is still violence being committed in the form of beatings and killings," he said. "Under the terms of the agreement there could only be re-

leases once the violence has ceased."

A spokesman for Sinn Féin said: "The Government has no choice over this. It was an integral part of the agreement which people voted to accept."

This point was accepted by the Government. A spokesman for the Northern Ireland office said: "The release of prisoners is part of the agreement. We cannot go cherry-picking. We are here to implement the agreement. If the groups who voted for it can live with it, then we can live with it."

Sources suggested that the first releases may only number around a dozen. "I don't think it will be a question of the floodgates opening," said the source.

Under the terms of legislation passed to allow the release to go ahead, prisoners will be released on licence and their release will be reviewed should the ceasefire be broken.

Man squirts yellow paint on National Gallery Rembrandt

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A REMBRANDT masterpiece worth millions of pounds went back on display at the National Gallery yesterday, 24 hours after a vandal attacked it with yellow paint.

Rembrandt's *Self-portrait of The Age of 63*, one of a series of self-portraits had paint squirted on it on Tuesday. Security staff at the gallery, in London's Trafalgar Square, overpowered the man and prevented further harm to the painting, considered one of the artist's most important pieces.

It was immediately taken to the gallery's restorers who were able to remove the paint without damaging the picture. A spokeswoman for the gallery said: "Thanks to the prompt action of staff, the work

did not sustain any permanent damage."

The National Gallery has about five million visitors every year. Apart from a knee-high rope in front of the pictures, there are no physical barriers to protect its exhibits, although there are gallery staff in every room.

Tuesday's attack was the most serious at the National since a Leonardo da Vinci drawing was badly damaged with a sawn-off shotgun in 1987. Damage estimated at \$400,000 was inflicted on the 450-year-old cartoon of *Virgin and Child with Saint Anne and Saint John the Baptist*. That attack



Rembrandt's self-portrait

In March 1914, a suffragette damaged a painting of a reclining nude by the artist Velasquez by whacking it with an umbrella.

Last year, a portrait of the Moors murderer, Myra Hindley, was damaged in two attacks at the Royal Academy in London.

Protesters hurled paint and eggs at the painting on the opening day of a new exhibition, *Sensation*, featuring the work of young British artists.

Vincent Bethell, 26, an unemployed man from Coventry, was charged yesterday with criminal damage in connection with the incident involving the Rembrandt.

There has been no explanation of why the assault was carried out.

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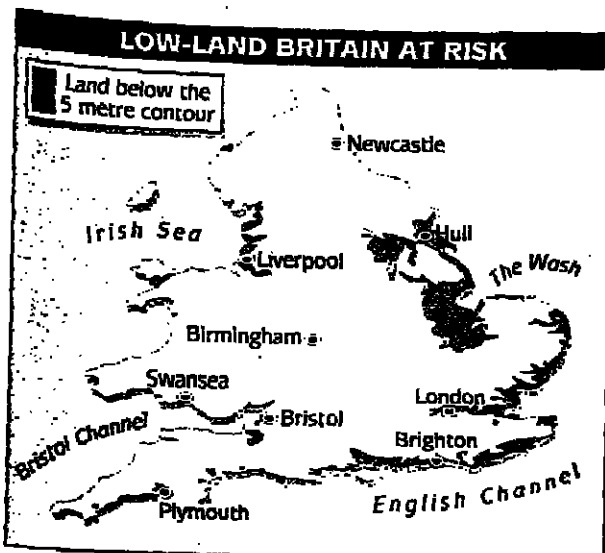
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Let the coastline flood, MPs say



BRITAIN SHOULD abandon the engineered defences of some of its coastline and let the sea flood in, an influential committee of MPs said yesterday.

Protecting low-lying farmland with artificial dykes and sea walls is uneconomic, counter-productive and cannot be maintained in the long term, especially with the threat of sea-level rise caused by global warming, said the all-party Agriculture Select Committee in a unanimous report.

The committee called for a planned policy of "managed realignment" of the coastline rather than suffering "the consequences of a deluded belief that we can maintain indefinitely an unbreachable Maginot Line of towering sea walls and flood defences".

The MPs said: "It is time to declare an end to the centuries-old war with the sea and

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

to seek a peaceful accommodation with our former enemy."

They argued that current coastal defence policy "cannot be sustained in the long term if it continues to be founded on the practice of substantial human intervention in the natural processes of flooding and erosion". Instead, they said, planners should be "making room for the sea at the coast and for rivers in flood plains".

Their report has major implications for the coast of eastern and southern England, in an arc from Yorkshire to Kent, especially around the Humber, the Wash and the Thames estuary, where much low-lying land has been reclaimed for agriculture by engineered defences.

The MPs said coastal planners should take into account



Coastal erosion at Cowden near Scarborough. Many parts of the east coast of England face a similar threat

David Parker

the fact that Britain now no longer needs to produce all its own food, and too much food has often been produced anyway because of agricultural subsidies. If land was lost, affected farmers would have to be compensated, they said.

A spokesman for the National Farmers Union said the abandonment of low-lying

farmland would have wide consequences throughout the industry. "Farmers must not be left at the mercy of the sea. The select committee is seriously oversteering the issues surrounding the use of low-lying farmland which is the basis for a large and important industry. Much of that land is used for horticulture which has an ex-

tensive associated industry for packaging and distribution."

"These are crops which are not produced in surplus and form a major source of export income for this country."

The World Wide Fund for Nature and the Wildlife Trusts welcomed the report, saying there was an urgent need to restore natural habitats in flood

plains and along the coasts, especially the inter-tidal areas - the areas between high and low tides. These are not only immensely valuable for wildlife, said Paul Murby of the Wildlife Trusts, they are also extremely effective as coastal defences in themselves, as the shallow shore absorbs wave energy.

Peter Luff, Conservative MP

for Mid-Worcestershire, said that in many areas "managed retreat" would only require sea defences to be moved back a few tens of metres. But in others farmers would have to sacrifice land.

"We must work with nature and not against it - we must be a little more humble about our relationship with it," he said.

Survival fear for polar bears

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

POLAR BEARS in the Canadian Arctic are under threat from regional warming that is causing ice floes to melt earlier. Scientists monitoring the animals say that there is a decline in the birth rates and the general well-being of the bears.

The only noticeable improvement tallied exactly with an exceptionally cold year following the eruption in 1993 of Mt Pinatubo in the Philippines, throwing ash and gas into the atmosphere.

Nick Lunn of the Canadian Wildlife Service told *New Scientist* magazine that there had been a long-term decline in the condition and reproduction of female bears.

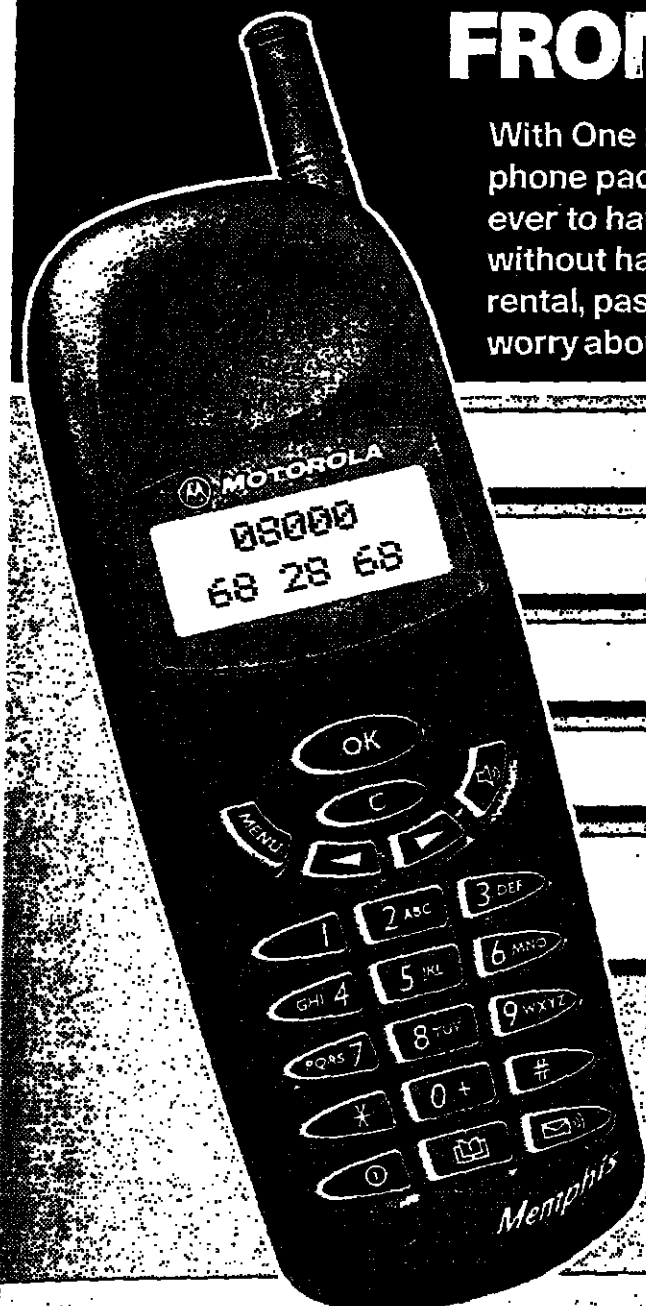
Recently the floes have begun to melt earlier as a result of regional warming in the Arctic, threatening the bears' survival.

In April the Hudson Bay bears wait at ice holes to catch young seals, which come to the surface to breathe. Pregnant females gorge themselves with food before the ice melts. They then spend eight months, from July to March, in hibernation.

In that time they give birth and lose up to half their body weight, which must be regained on the ice if they and their cubs are to survive.

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Top detective was corrupt, court told

By LOUISE JURY

A SENIOR detective passed information on the attempted murder of one of his own officers to the gang of a notorious drugs baron - using one of TV's Gladiators as a go-between, a court heard yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector Elmore Davies, of Merseyside Police, was accused of undermining the prosecution of Philip Glennon Jr, who was charged with the attempted killing, in exchange for money.

Nottingham Crown Court was told that Mr Davies, 50, was the police end of a chain to Curtis Warren, who was jailed last year in Holland for major drugs smuggling. Gladiator Mike Ahearne was a go-between, it was claimed.

Peter Joyce QC, for the prosecution, said the case stemmed from an incident outside The Venue nightclub in Tuebrook,

Liverpool, in July 1996 when Mr Glennon Jr was thrown out.

He later returned with a loaded gun and, after a dispute, fired it at a doorman. The gun jammed and Mr Glennon was chased by two police constables, Gary Titherington and Christian Gilbert.

"Glennon was arrested after a struggle and the gun was recovered. He was charged with the attempted murder of the doorman and PC Titherington at whom he had raised the gun and fired," Mr Joyce said.

Mr Davies then allegedly supplied information about PC Titherington which was passed to the gang of Curtis Warren, who was Mr Glennon's brother-in-law.

Mr Ahearne, 37, is accused of passing on the information

via another defendant, Anthony Bray, also 37.

Mr Davies, of Oxted, Merseyside, Mr Ahearne, of Oxted, and Mr Bray, of Moreton, Merseyside, are jointly charged with acts intended to pervert the course of public justice. All pleaded not guilty.

Mr Joyce said of Mr Davies: "Having risen to a senior and very responsible rank, enjoying a particularly responsible job as the crime manager, he did his best to undermine the prosecution of the man who had been charged with the attempted murder of a policeman from his own station and he did it for money."

A sum of £10,000 was allegedly passed to Mr Ahearne by Mr Bray and information from Mr Davies was passed back a few days later.

The case continues.

IN BRIEF

Officer suspended after home raid

A POLICE officer has been suspended after documents were seized yesterday in a raid on his home in south-west London by detectives investigating "allegations of serious corruption". Scotland Yard said. The raid by officers from the Yard's CIB3 anti-corruption squad, follows another search at the home of a retired City of London officer on Tuesday morning. Further documentation was seized there as part of the same "continuing" investigation.

England hero hurt in crash

THE ENGLAND football hero, Stuart Pearce, is in hospital with back injuries after his car and a lorry collided yesterday in a lane near the village of Cotgrave, Notts. Doctors at Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre said the Newcastle United player was comfortable but suffering some pain. The player, who was alone in his car, sent a message to his fans through medical staff to say that he was "okay".

More illegal entrants caught

THE NUMBER of illegal immigrants seized at Dover has risen nearly five-fold, according to the latest figures. Between January and last month 1,494 people were caught trying to enter the country illegally at the Channel port, compared to 317 the same time last year. Arrests of illegal immigrants across the country have risen from 330 a month last year to 550.

It's in the cardboard

BRITISH researchers have created the world's first "fizz box" - a cardboard container strong enough to hold a fizzy drink. The tube-shaped cardboard "cans" should eventually be cheaper to make and recycle than aluminium versions. Richard Freeman and colleagues at Scientific Generics in Cambridge developed the container from four layers of cardboard with a thin membrane of aluminium. *New Scientist* magazine reported.

'Sporting Life' relaunch delayed

By GARY FINN

THE RELAUNCH of the Queen Mother's purported favourite breakfast read, the *Sporting Life*, has been postponed following internal disagreements about its future.

Until this year it had served the nation's sports lovers for 139 years but in May its new owners, Mirror Group, closed it and merged it with rival stablemate *Racing Post*, making more than 40 people redundant.

The closure brought an outcry from the nation's punters and even a statement of sympathy from the Queen Mother, but their fears were allayed by the announcement that the *Sporting Life* would relaunch as a daily sports paper.

Yesterday Mirror Group said the new paper would be out "possibly next spring".

Despite hiring some experienced Fleet Street hands to supervise the paper's latest incarnation, the *Sporting Life* had design problems, and executives have commissioned further market testing.

They have not been cheered by the performance of *Sport First*, the UK's first all-sport Sunday paper, which has not lived up to predicted sales of 150,000 since its launch in May this year.

Last night Mirror Group gave assurances that an estimated 75 staff already hired would not lose their jobs but conceded that it was freezing recruitment until further notice.

BIDISHA

"These days, people don't want to be up all night; they need something to bring them down in time for work the next day"

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

دیکسوں ایئر

Another comic week in the life of the leader of Her Majesty's opposition



Getting the message across with Des O'Connor on TV last night

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

IT'S AUGUST, the Prime Minister is away and the nation needs cheering up. Yes, the William Hague daft-photo-opportunity season is with us once more.

In yet another bid to shake off the cruel perception that he is a man with less personality than a cucumber, the Tory leader crammed in a series of media appearances this week that proved beyond doubt that he's the country's most prolific wannabe comedian.

Undeterred by less-than-rave reviews for his previous appearances front of camera, Mr Hague has staged a mini-publicity blitz aimed at reminding us exactly who he is. The gaffable Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition popped up at a fish and chip shop in Cardiff, unveiled a new bust of himself in London and indulged in a spot of light interviewing on the Des O'Connor Show last night.

Matching last year's late-summer efforts, in which he memorably sported a baseball cap on a theme park waterslide (right way round and with HAGUE in capital letters on the front) was always going to be



William Hague eating out at Harry Ramsden's and unveiling a bust of himself

difficult, but he put up a good show. Attempting to show that anything the Prime Minister can do, he can do "better", Mr Hague wowed Des with weak jokes, a nervy smile and a nice line in blokish self-deprecation. Just seven weeks after Tony Blair showed off his Estuary English skills, the 37-year-old delivered string of quips about his balding pate, his marriage and his judo sparring with Sebastian Coe. He had the studio audience giggling with tales of

how Madame Tussaud's worked on his waxwork dummy: "They try to find enough hair... I think they had some left over in my case."

Bidding to challenge his reputation as Britain's youngest fogey, he also had them rolling in the aisles with accounts of how fame had marred his visits to the cinema. "Fion and I sit down and all the crisps stop rustling, all the popcorn stops being munching. Then we hear people say things like: 'He's eat-

ing a Kit Kat.' or: 'Do you think he's going to hold her hand?'" he said.

The subject of his thinning hair was also cause for more Hague hilarity earlier in the day when he unveiled a new statue of himself at Tory Central Office. Posing with the bronze bust, itself a curious hybrid of Bobby Charlton and erstwhile leadership contender Peter Lilley, he appeared to give it a Maori kiss before joking: "My brother here's got more hair than me, and a better hair-style."

"I've never gazed into my eyes before... if ever I have to miss Question Time, I could send him along instead," he told an assembled gathering of charity chiefs who had donated the sculpture. Being charitable types, the good people of the Exdlarch's Foundation

laughed convincingly at their host's gags.

A copy of the bust will go on sale to help Children in Need later this year, though Mr Hague refused to joke about exactly how much money it might raise.

The good news, however, for connoisseurs of the Tory leader's stand-up routines, is that he won't be making a return visit to Notting Hill carnival this year. Scenes of Mr Hague behaving like a cheery policeman attempting to mingle with young people will not be repeated as the Hagues leave for their summer holiday in Arizona at the weekend.

It is not known if the Tory spin doctors have arranged any jolly photo-ops of the pair riding on horseback. Or if young William will appear on the Jay Leno show.

MPs attack flawed Tory privatisation

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

If the department had held back 40 per cent of the shares until this year their value would have risen by £160m before they were sold, a report from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said. The £224m raised by the sale was also tempered by the £121m cost of a restructuring exercise which took place shortly before hand. Without restructuring, the business would have been uneconomical, the committee found.

The report said the DTI could have obtained better value for money. It should have considered phasing the sale and the fact that it did not oversee the sale of shares to its advisers was a cause for concern.

David Davis, chairman of the PAC, said the current Government should learn from its predecessors' mistakes. The decision to sell the whole organisation at once was not put to ministers, he added. "This sale was flawed in a number of ways and does not represent the best deal for the taxpayer."

AEA Technology was floated for 280p a share. The flotation was expected to make a premium of 20p a share for investors, but on the day of the flotation the stock market valued the shares at 323.5p, an instant profit of 43.5p. At the end of May this year the 32 million shares were worth 777.5p each.

Defence Review comes under fire

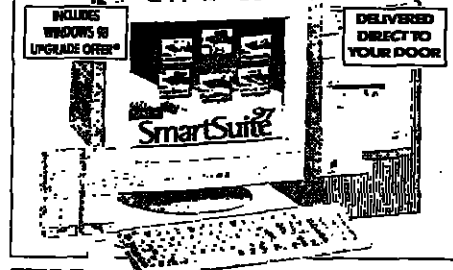
BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

ALMOST 40 MPs have written to the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, to protest that he has strengthened Britain's commitment to nuclear weapons. The Strategic Defence Review has stuck to "Cold War rhetoric" despite a cut in the number of British nuclear warheads from 300 to 200, the group has claimed.

The MPs, all members of the Parliamentary Labour Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, were also joined in their protest by the Liberal Democrat peer Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Despite the cut, the review also contained a little publicised commitment not to

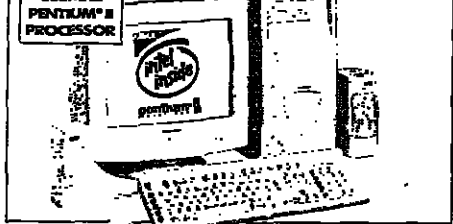
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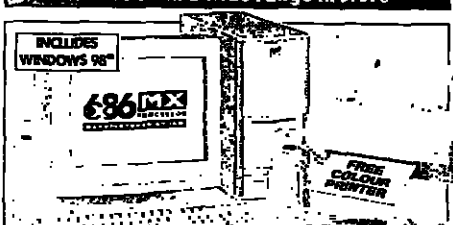
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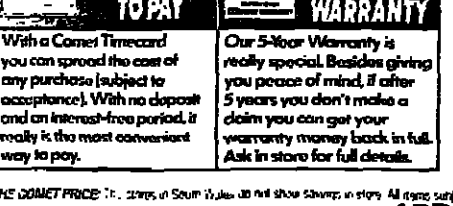
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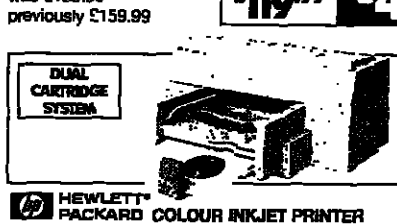
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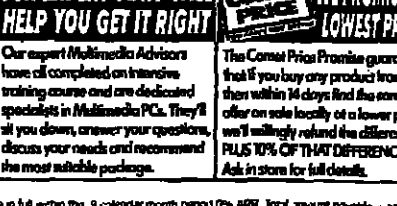
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Blazing row as Freemasons seek justice from fireman



Malcolm Saunders, accused of prejudice

IS IT ART? Or is it persecution? Freemasons are demanding a public apology from the fire service in Yorkshire after one of its most senior officers published a poem on the Internet linking Freemasons to corruption, murder and international terrorism.

Brothers, 28 lines of anti-Masonic verse by West Yorkshire's deputy chief fire officer, Malcolm Saunders, has sparked calls for his resignation and for an official apology from the brigade.

Prompted by the death in 1982 of Roberto Calvi, the Italian financier found hanged under Blackfriars Bridge in London, the poem refers to Masonic lodges as "foul exploiters

By GARY FINN

of the weak" which buy political favours for their members.

The Brotherhood itself is derided for its colourful rituals and members are accused of "great corruption and abuse".

Freemasons are incensed by the poem, which attracted criticism after it appeared on Mr Saunders' Website, and say it reveals deep-seated prejudice against them among senior fire service management.

The poem, claimed one lodge, has already forced a number of firefighters to resign their position as Freemasons in case membership jeopardised their career.

Keith Madeley, spokesman

for the Freemasons' Province of Yorkshire West Riding, said: "One young fire officer with a family rang me up to say he feels he must resign from his lodge because of the pressure he gets from other officers. This is absolutely appalling."

"We are sick of being billed as a secret organisation which perverts the course of justice. It's simply not true."

"This is just pure discrimination against Freemasonry and I have already written to the county's chief fire officer demanding a public apology."

But Mr Saunders remained unrepentant last night, maintaining that Masonry had no place in public service.

He pointed to the fact that, de-

spite the Brigade requiring Masons to declare themselves as a condition of employment, there were still no firefighters who had declared their membership.

"It just goes to show that they are very much a secret society, and that worries me," he said.

"If the fire service is engaged in granting fire-safety certificates and investigating fires then I would have thought we need to know of any links or oaths which may preclude those duties being carried out to the highest level of public probity and service."

He added that the poem did not say Yorkshire Freemasons were corrupt and he did not believe that the officers in the fire

service who belonged to the Freemasons were in any way less competent in the practice of their duty.

"It is a poem I wrote before I was even in this post and it is my opinion and I am certainly not going to apologise for that - and certainly not to Masons. That sort of stuff strikes me as faintly juvenile and Victorian and should have no place in this day and age."

Meanwhile, asked why firefighters who were Masons had not complied with conditions of service by declaring their membership, Mr Madeley said: "There is no explicit instruction from us not to declare but obviously we sympathise with those people who choose not to."

Brothers

Brothers used in secret banding
Meet at night and in lone rivers
Sworn to fight each others
corner
Stand together side by sides
Fraternal bonds are sworn in
earnest
Traitors will be disembowelled
Tongues torn out from secret
breakers
Savage oaths are learned then
vowed
The architect receives their
blessing
Jablon their compound god
They let the builder of the
temple
Solomon's sepulchral arc
Do they just have mystic
purpose?

Giving praise and doing good
Intoning harmless rites in
aprons
On the level as they should
No, the task is much more
furtive
Forming bonds for future use
Granting brothers petty favours
Or great corruption and abuse
P2 the prime of Masons' lodges
Represents the goal they seek
Buying politicians favours
Foul exploiters of the weak
The world they seek is far from
mystic
Pagal banking, incestuous
While waltzes of Bologna
sweeping
Cells still as rich and strong

Male nurses leave women in slow lane

ALL NATIONAL Health Service Trusts must review their employment policies after a study found that male nurses climb the career ladder much more quickly, despite women having better qualifications and more experience.

The largest study so far of nurses employed by the NHS found that men were twice as likely as women to be serving in the highest nursing grades - even though they only make up 7 per cent of the workforce.

The report, commissioned by the Department of Health, said direct discrimination against women "could not be ruled out". But it also cited other reasons, such as the disadvantage of career breaks, or working part-time.

Male nurses were more likely than women to expect to move to a better job in the near future, and women were more likely than men to work in specialisms with limited chances for promotion, such as community nursing.

Yet female-registered nurses had better post-basic nursing qualifications than equivalent male nurses and were just as likely as men to be orientated towards a career in nursing, said the Policy Studies Institute, which carried out the study of more than 14,000 nurses.

Taking career breaks, working in "family-friendly" nursing specialisms and working part-time were at the root of much

By GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

of the disadvantage experienced by women. But the authors added: "Direct discrimination against women in the nursing profession could not be ruled out although the authors could not be confident of its extent, nor the degree of influence it exerted."

Female nurses were considerably more likely to have taken a career break from employment and were 10 times more likely than male nurses to have children. Just under half of female nurses worked part-time compared with one in 20 male nurses.

For nurses working in "family friendly" environments, it meant women were more likely to work nights than men, or part-time. All parents felt childcare facilities offered by their employers was unsatisfactory.

While women tended to have better nursing qualifications than men, a greater proportion of unqualified male nurses said that they had been encouraged to take further training compared with equivalent female colleagues. These men were also more likely to report that they found it easier to get their course fees paid.

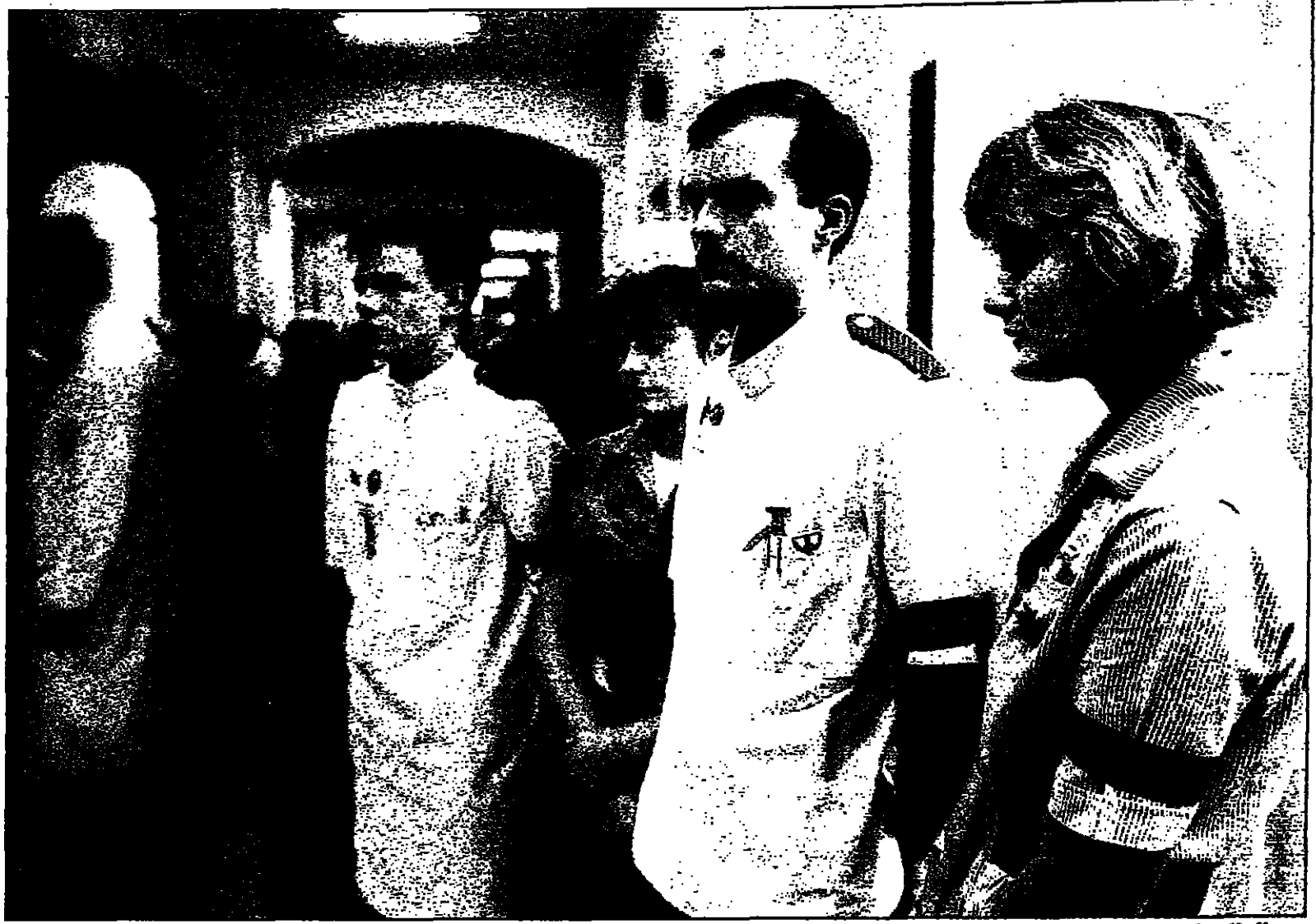
In order to deal with the gender discrimination in nursing the authors concluded that four "crucial" factors must be addressed - the negative impact of

career breaks, lack of opportunity for part-time work in senior posts, lack of promotion opportunity in many of the specialisms women work in and the inadequacy of childcare provision.

"The report suggests that the problem of gender inequalities in nursing careers is more fundamental than shattering the 'glass ceiling', said Louise Finlayson, co-author of the report. "Disadvantage for women is present at relatively junior positions and becomes greater as seniority increases."

The Health minister, Helen Hayman, will study the results of trust reviews to identify areas of weakness and priorities for action. "Inequalities amongst female and male staff have no place in a modern and dependable Health Service," she said. "The Government is determined to tackle discrimination wherever it occurs. I will be studying the results... very closely indeed to see what further action we can take to improve matters."

A spokeswoman for the Royal College of Nursing urged health service managers to take on board the implications of the report and bring in family friendly and flexible practices. "Part-time working, for example, does not mean a less committed or less skilled workforce. Managers need to look at their perceptions and organisational barriers within their workplaces."



A study of NHS nurses found that men were twice as likely as women to be serving in the highest grades

Jon Hoffman

Why dog warden earns the same as RCN

NURSES SHOULD get a pay increase to stop the escalating recruitment crisis in the profession, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday.

Mr Dobson said the Government would ask the independent body which sets nurses' pay to agree a new rise which would not, unlike this year's, be made in stages.

Malcolm Wing, head of the nursing sector of the public sec-

By LOUISE JURY

tor union Unison, said nurses had to be paid salaries comparable with similar professions.

He added: "At the moment that is not happening. There is quite a glaring gap."

A basic grade nurse starts on £12,855 - compared with a police constable on £15,438, a teacher on £15,012 and the most common grade of social worker on £14,437. Nurses' leaders also

highlighted an advertisement in a Northern Ireland newspaper for a local authority dog warden at a starting salary of £12,500 - only slightly less than the salary offered for a basic-grade nurse in an adjacent hospital trust advertisement.

Mr Dobson said better salaries were only one part of a strategy which would include flexible working and career development to address the recruitment crisis. He said any

recommended pay rises could not be guaranteed to be above inflation.

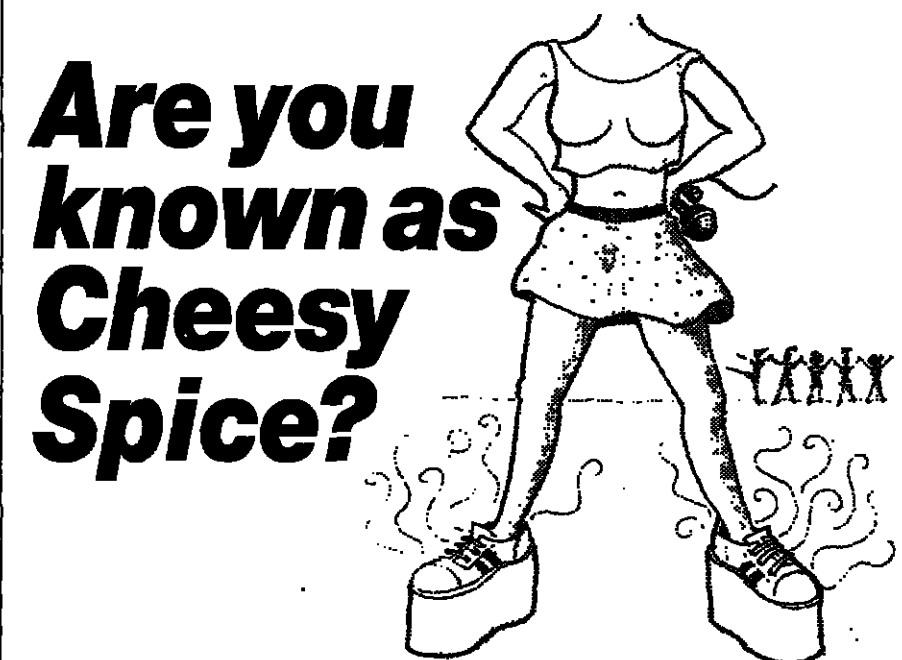
Last month Mr Dobson promised to give the NHS an extra 15,000 trained nurses and 6,000 trainees in the next three years to compensate for 140,000 who left under the Tories.

The need was highlighted by a survey this week which showed a sharp drop in the number of nursing students and another which claimed wide-

spread disillusionment among cervical cancer screening staff.

A BBC Newsround South East survey found 1,800 vacancies in the region's 13 acute hospital trusts - up to 20 per cent in some.

Christine Hancock, of the Royal College of Nursing, welcomed the plans to end staged awards. She added: "The real issue is the line of pay. Nurses must be paid in line with people in similar professions."



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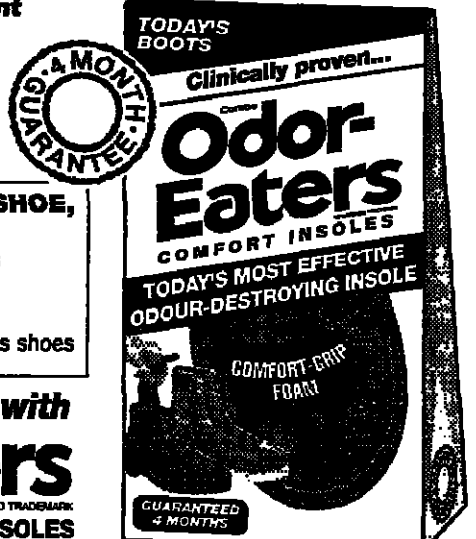
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Swimming pool bathers at risk because of too few lifeguards

MORE THAN two-thirds of swimming pools are putting users at risk through inadequate lifeguard cover, the Consumers' Association magazine Which? claimed today.

Last summer 14 people died by drowning in public or private pools and nearly 1,000 accidents happened in local authority pools alone.

Which? sent two expert pool inspectors to rate 29 pools across the country against major safety standards set down in the current guidelines.

All public and private pools are legally required to carry out a risk assessment to set safety standards based on the pool's size and features and the type of people using it.

The inspectors found that all 29 pools failed to meet some of the guidelines and some gave

By GLENDA COOPER

"serious cause for concern".

In the 27 pools where lifeguards were provided Which? says that only four met the published standards fully. More than two-thirds of pools did not have adequate lifeguard cover - meaning there were not enough of them, not all areas of the pool were supervised or the lifeguards were not behaving professionally.

In the worst cases inspectors described lifeguards as "lacking in vigilance", "unprofessional" or "complacent". "This is particularly worrying as our inspectors could see clearly signed danger-operated alarms in only six of the 29 pools they visited," said the report.

Signs - essential to tell people where it is safe to dive or of

sudden changes in pool depth - were often inconsistent and not sited in the best places. Often, some areas had no signs and several pools did not make it clear where only shallow diving was safe.

In most pools where there were any potentially dangerous features the management had taken measures to prevent problems occurring. However, several pools had worrying features including water-slide supports which could cause head injuries or powerful suction in water outlets in which hair could become trapped.

The CA says that at Bournemouth International Centre virtually the whole pool was supervised by a single lifeguard, and adults and children were swimming across designated swimming lanes.

At the Nova Centre in Prestatyn, north Wales, the inspectors described an unsupervised learner pool and said they felt the lifeguards showed an "general lack of professional behaviour and a high degree of complacency" with children running round the pool.

In the Sandcastle leisure pool in Blackpool support structures for two of the slides overhung the pool creating the potential for head injuries and two children banged their heads during the inspection. At the Rhyd Sun Centre in north Wales, the bottom of a slide overhung the pool close to the water surface with children diving under the water to explore the air pocket which could have led to an accident.

Bournemouth said it was "investigating" the alleged prob-

lem and Sandcastle said that it had taken steps over the slides although it thought the Which? criticism "very harsh".

Sue Appleton of Denbighshire County Council which runs both the Rhyd and Nova Centres said that in the case of Rhyd, the criticisms had been taken on board. But in the case of Nova Ms Appleton said that the council was "questioning the inspectors' judgement".

"They said Nova was a leisure pool when it's not. It's an ordinary tank pool. And on the day they visited there were seven lifeguards on duty when the statutory requirement is only three."

Editor of Which?, Helen Parker, said it was encouraged by the positive way that pool managers responded.

VIAGRA CORNER

DESPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

ister, saying it is "impractical" and "undesirable" for Viagra to be prescribed only after a patient has been seen by a specialist.

The association believes the idea is merely a crude way of controlling costs because demand for Viagra is likely to be so great when it is licensed later this summer that it could cost the National Health Ser-

vice more than £1bn a year. "This appears an inappropriate way to utilise the time and skill of the already stretched resources of urologists and other specialists in the health service," the surgeons said.

Nearly four out of five of consultants believed that ED patients could be treated initially by GPs after family doctors had

been given training and guidelines to manage such patients.

"If we have to see every ED patient, we will be snowed under," said Roger Kirby, secretary of the BAUS. "That will have a downside impact on our other patients - patients with prostate cancer, bladder cancer or kidney disease. These are other things that we need to look after."

He said urologists would be willing to help train GPs. "We could tell the GPs who should and shouldn't get Viagra and allow GPs to provide prescriptions."

JP 11/10/50



A photographer taking pictures yesterday of grave marks at the burial site of ethnic Albanians in Orahovac, Kosovo

Srdjan Ilic/AP

Inquiry into 'mass grave' in Kosovo

THE STINKING rubbish dumps at the edge of Orahovac town in Kosovo may be hiding the latest victims of Serbian brutality. According to reports published yesterday in German, Austrian and Swedish newspapers, the Balkans' new killing fields conceal the bodies of 567 Albanians, including 430 children, massacred by the Serbian police.

Or if the European Union observers hurriedly dispatched there yesterday are to be believed, perhaps no more than a few dozen Albanian fighters are interred there. "The observers have found no evidence of mass graves," said the Austrian spokesman of the mission, Walter Ebenberger.

Mr Ebenberger had not gone to Orahovac, but had spoken to colleagues who had. They found graves marked with numbers, at the rubbish tip identified by Erich Rathfelder, whose shocking dispatch appeared in yesterday's *Tagesspiegel*, a Berlin newspaper, and *Die Presse*, an Austrian daily.

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn
AND ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Serb anti-terrorist forces used the local inhabitants as a human shield in their battle against the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Local grave-diggers told the journalist they had buried 567 in two mass graves dug at the dump. Bulldozers were used to level the ground, but some corpses could still be seen lying exposed on Tuesday.

Observers and journalists at the scene were able to confirm the existence of some makeshift graves, but what lies below the wooden crosses remains a mystery. The Serbs do not deny that some "50 Albanian extremists" had been killed and buried there in the course of last month's battles. But they have shown no inclination to allow international investigators to exhume the bodies.

Albanian sources were also confused by the reports. They had reckoned with 200 dead in the fighting, and had not heard of any massacres in the district.

"If there is any truth in these horrifying accounts, we must have a firm and united interna-

tional response," said Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

In the US, Congressional pressure is building for a display of force to stop the bloodshed in Kosovo. Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Representative Christopher Smith called yesterday for "immediate and decisive action" in a letter to President Bill Clinton. The rising violence, increasing numbers of displaced people and the return of ethnic cleansing all demand military action, they said, on behalf of the Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe. "We urge you to seek agreement within Nato to act directly against those within Kosovo who are attacking civilian populations," they added.

Nato ambassadors will meet tomorrow to discuss progress on military options for Kosovo. The organisation was asked in May to prepare plans for intervention.

On Tuesday, State Department spokesman Jamie Rubin said: "These plans are being both finalised and operationalised so that Nato will be in a position to act quickly if a political decision to do so is made."

Leading article, Review, page 3

Steps that led to the Iraqi stand-off

Patrick Cockburn explains the background to the brinkmanship between Saddam Hussein and the UN

Why did talks between Iraq and the UN break down this week? Iraq says it has eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction. The UN Special Committee (Unsc), led by Richard Butler, an Australian diplomat, says Iraq still has non-conventional weapons.

How did sanctions start? The UN imposed an embargo on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait on 6 August, 1990. After the Gulf War the UN maintained sanctions under Resolution 687 until Iraq fulfilled various conditions, including the elimination of its biological, chemical and nuclear programmes. Sanctions covered everything except food and medicine.



Butler: talks collapse

What are Iraq's weapons of mass destruction? Iraq used chemical weapons - mainly mustard gas and the nerve gases sarin and tabun - against Iranian troops in the Iran-Iraq war. It also sought to weaponise VX nerve gas. It developed missiles with which it hit Tehran and other Iranian cities. It experimented with biological weapons such as anthrax, botulinum and aflatoxin. There was an ambitious Iraqi programme to develop a nuclear device, which was accelerated after the invasion of Kuwait.

What evidence is there that Iraq still has such weapons? Iraq at first deliberately underestimated its chemical weapons. In 1993 the UN could not account for a quarter of Iraq's missiles. In 1995 it admitted to extensive bio-

logical programmes. Smuggled Russian gyroscopes for missiles were intercepted in Jordan. The UN said it discovered traces of VX in fragments of rockets the Iraqis destroyed.

Why did Iraq not use any of its weapons of mass destruction in the Gulf War? Iraq fired 88 missiles, almost half at Israel. It did not use non-conventional warheads, presumably fearing retaliation.

Is US policy to prolong sanctions as long as possible? Effectively, yes. The US has always been ambivalent about sanctions. In 1997 Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said they would not be lifted as long as Saddam Hussein was in power.

Why does Iraq cling on to some weapons of mass destruction? They are a symbol of Saddam Hussein's ambition to make Iraq a regional power. They were effective in the Iran-Iraq war and Iraq both have them. The Iraqis doubt that, even if they did give up the weapons, sanctions would be lifted.

What weapons of mass destruction do Iraq's neighbours have?

Israel has at least 80 and possibly as many as 300 nuclear devices. It has the Jericho 1 and 11 missiles as well as a range of fighter-bombers capable of reaching anywhere in the Middle East. It produces mustard and nerve gases in Sinai, Iran, which suffered 50,000 casualties from poison gas in the war with Iraq, has its own chemical nerve gas production. It is developing a longer range missile with Russian aid.

Do the US and Britain really believe Iraq might use its non-conventional weapons? Probably not. In February the US embassy in Kuwait, within range of legally held Iraqi missiles, told American citizens in Kuwait city that there was no necessity to buy gas masks because Iraq's ability to deliver a warhead

was very limited.

What is the impact of sanctions on the people of Iraq? Devastating. UNICEF says that before sanctions, obesity was the main problem for Iraqi infants. Today 31 per cent suffer from malnutrition. Infant mortality has more than quintupled.

Why has not the UN's oil-for-food plan, under resolution 986, accepted by Iraq two years ago, not improved living standards? It came too late. The infrastructure is collapsing. Not re-



Saddam: secret weapons paired for eight years. electricity, water and sewage plants are worn out.

What have sanctions achieved? Very little in terms of obtaining information about Iraq's non-conventional weapons. Nor is there any sign of them weakening Saddam Hussein's grip on power. Their effect is largely on the Iraqi people.

What would happen if the US bombed Iraq as it did in 1991? This is unlikely to make Iraq accept UN inspectors. It would be difficult to get support in the Security Council or the Arab world.

What alternative is there to sanctions? The conventional method of deterring aggression is the threat of retaliation by a superior force. This stopped Iraq using its weapons of mass destruction in 1991, when it had more of them.

DAVID AARONOVITCH

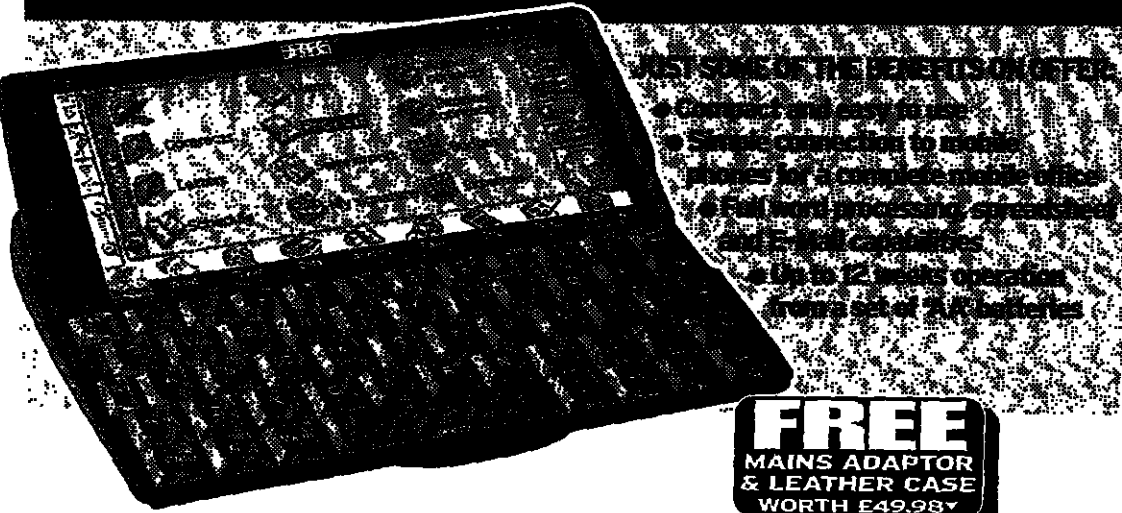
'The man who appointed Frank Field, and who then disappointed him; who talked about radical welfare reform, but who has not yet backed it in practice. Who the hell is he?'

THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

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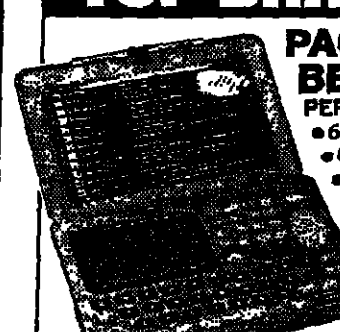
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Greek PM attacked over forest blaze

GREEK firefighters brought a four-day-old forest blaze under control near Athens yesterday, but the government was criticised for failing to prevent the destruction of scores of homes.

Flames that had raged unchecked since Sunday ruined about 100 homes, damaged hundreds of others, burnt three factories and a school and razed thousands of acres of precious pine forest on Mount Pendeli, according to initial estimates.

"The government is a national disaster," said the front-page headline in the conservative daily *Vradini*. Other newspapers echoed its view, accusing the state's fire-fighting apparatus of incompetence. "The state is proven incapable of averting a predictable crime against nature and society," said the daily *Kathimerini* in a lead editorial.

Following strong criticism from opposition parties, the Socialist Prime Minister, Costas Simitis, interrupted his holiday on Tuesday to return to Athens and chair an emergency meeting on the fire.

By DINA KYRIAKIDOU
in Athens

which government officials blamed on arsonists.

"State authorities are asleep and Mr Simitis, who is not even here, insists that everything is going well," Costas Karamanlis, leader of the conservative opposition New Democracy party, told reporters as he walked through charred forest on Tuesday. Television news showed frantic scenes of people abandoning their homes in cars and on foot, or trying to put out flames with branches and wet sheets. Some residents stormed fire engines, imploring firemen to put out flames burning their homes.

The Public Order Minister, George Romeo, dismissed the claims. He said firemen had been brought in from all over Greece to fight the fire, which swept as close as the north Athens suburb of Vrillissia.

On 28 July an Athens public prosecutor ordered an investigation into allegations that arsonists were starting fires to

make space for construction development and that the state's fire-fighting services were not operating properly.

Greece has been plagued by scores of forest fires this summer, including several around the capital, where three firemen and a volunteer were burnt to death last month in an effort to stop flames from reaching a suburb.

Critics blame weaknesses in battling forest fires on a government decision to switch fire-fighting responsibility from the forestry department to the fire brigade in May, shortly before the usually busy summer season.

The Pendeli blaze also burnt a summer camp for disabled children and threatened a state hospital. All were evacuated, along with a monastery, factories and a school, as flames leaping 20 metres (65ft) came dangerously close.

More than 600 firemen, several fire-fighting planes which bombard flames with water, army helicopters and hundreds of soldiers and volunteers fought the inferno.



A Chinook helicopter sprays water to try to extinguish the forest fire, which destroyed homes, buildings and trees around Athens. AFP

50,000 flee Chinese flooding

By TERESA POOLE
in Peking

THE VILLAGES of Paizhou and Hezhen were flooded out when a dyke collapsed in Jiayu County at the weekend, but casualty figures still remained uncertain yesterday. Local residents contacted by telephone said that up to 50,000 people from the stricken area had been moved to nearby villages, and the main provincial newspaper, the *Hubei Daily*, reported that 19 soldiers were missing. Many people were believed to have been on the dyke when it gave way.

Mr Dou, at the Jiayu department store in the county town said: "We all heard Paizhou and Hezhen were flooded, but we don't know about casualties. Jiayu town itself should be safe. There are many people on the dykes and a lot of measures have been taken. But we are still under great pressure because the water level is still high. Every work unit has assigned people to watch closely over the water. Everyone in the town has their task to do." Jiayu is about 60km south of Wuhan city.

The dyke which collapsed was not one of those holding back the swollen river Yangtze, according to locals. It was on the other side of the villages, containing a lake or tributary river. When it breached, a wall of water rushed towards the Yangtze but was then trapped by the main river embankment. Ms Zhang, a local official, said: "The Paizhou area is now holding about 200 million cubic metres of water." The city of Wuhan had the benefit, with officials claiming that the river level in the industrial city had dropped 20 centimetres as a result of the upstream breach.

Once again last night, the television news ignored Jiayu



A soldier helps civilians through the floods at Jiayu yesterday. Reuters

in its flood reports. But the *Yangcheng Evening News* claimed that the dyke had sprung a leak a few days earlier. It quoted Major General Dai Yingchong as one of the soldiers who was swept away. "I was sucked down twice by the waves, but struggled back to the surface each time and finally grabbed a poplar tree," he said. "I saw that in the surrounding trees there also were a few other soldiers who had been swept away."

The situation may be clarified today when officials from the state flood control and drought relief headquarters finally hold a press conference on the flood situation. With waters still rising at several danger points, the forecasts for the next few days are mixed. Tropical storm Otto was weakening yesterday after landing in South-east China, but it was bringing yet more rain to flooded regions.

Flooding of the Yangtze is an annual event, but this year the situation has been exacerbated by earlier and heavier summer rains. The North-east of China is now also at risk, and the central government issued a warning for residents there to prepare for sudden, heavy rain.

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IN BRIEF

Congo rebels capture Bukavu

THE REVOLT against President Laurent Kabila widened in the Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday with his foreign minister defecting and Tutsi-led rebels from the new Congolese army capturing Bukavu. The Voice of the People radio station in Goma, where the revolt began on Sunday, introduced opposition politician Arthur Z'Ahidi Ngoma as co-ordinator of the uprising.

Deadline set for East Timor deal

A RESOLUTION to the 22-year-old dispute over the sovereignty of East Timor seemed a step closer yesterday after the governments of Indonesia and Portugal set a tentative end-of-year deadline for reaching a final agreement to grant limited autonomy to the region.

Anarchists mount bomb campaign

FOUR PARCEL bombs powerful enough to maim or kill have been received by a journalist, a magistrate and two politicians this week in what investigators believe is a terror campaign mounted by the extreme fringes of Italian anarchist groups. The devices, which all bore Rome postmarks, were diffused by police before they exploded.

Havel on the mend

THE CZECH President Vaclav Havel, who suffered a life-threatening heart problem on Monday following intestinal surgery, took solid food yesterday and is reading and writing notes, doctors said. Friends including rock stars The Rolling Stones sent flowers to the 61-year-old former playwright.

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Godzilla 2
The Little

JP 11/10/150

الشرق الأوسط



Tribal elders arriving for the initialling of the Nisga'a treaty in New Aiyansh, British Columbia, on Tuesday

Nick Procylo/AP

Indians celebrate land treaty

AGAINST A backdrop of snow-capped mountains and beating drums, the Nisga'a Indian Nation celebrated the initialling of a treaty it hopes will restore land lost to European settlers some two centuries ago.

The agreement has been hailed as a means to ease the damage that unresolved Indian land claims have inflicted on the resource-based economy of British Columbia, but has also been condemned for eroding the rights of the Canadian province's non-native residents.

"Today we make history as we correct the mistakes of the past and send a signal of hope around the world," said Chief Joseph Gosnell, who attended the ceremony in native dress with a carved headdress symbolising the eagle.

More than 500 Nisga'a members, most adorned in the red

and black costumes of four clans, sang songs of celebration and danced outside the new community hall in New Aiyansh where the initialling took place on Tuesday. One man held the photograph of an ancestor who helped take the Nisga'a's complaints to government officials in the 1880s.

The only news to mar the celebration came later in the day when word arrived of an aircraft crash, at the nearby Nisga'a village of Kincolith, in which five people were killed.

But, this tragedy apart, it was "a good day", as one young girl was heard to say to a friend at the celebrations.

The agreement would cede to the Nisga'a 745 square miles of land at the Nass River, near

the Alaska panhandle, with self-government rights, and compensation of some 490 million Canadian dollars (£200m).

The colourful ceremony, with tribal, federal and provincial officials, is only the start of a long ratification process. The treaty must be approved by the 5,500 or so Nisga'a, and by Canada's Parliament and British Columbia's provincial legislature.

The ratification process has been under attack since negotiators gave the treaty "handshake" approval in mid-July, with critics demanding a province-wide referendum.

Critics also complain that giving the Nisga'a a law-making powers in their territory will give them special rights over non-Indians in the area.

"This government has no right to change the way we live together without public con-

sent," Raef Mair, a conservative Vancouver radio talk-show host, complained in a commentary.

Indians make up only 3.8 per cent of British Columbia's 3.7 million people. The tribe's path to this treaty has been as rough as the road to New Aiyansh - a long gravel road that crosses a lava flow that killed 2,000 Nisga'a in the 1770s.

Although Sir Francis Drake first claimed their region for England in 1579, the first recorded European contact with the Nisga'a came in 1793 when the British sea captain, George Vancouver, encountered their tribal canoes while mapping the coast.

The Nisga'a and other British Columbian tribes were soon complaining about the loss of traditional fishing and hunting grounds, but Canadian and provincial officials responded by

outlawing their right to pursue land claims. "We had all the land. It was arbitrarily taken from us," Roderick Robinson, a Nisga'a leader and negotiator, said.

Although the rules against land claims were repealed in the 1950s, the negotiations that produced this treaty did not begin until 1976, and British Columbia declined to join federal and tribal negotiators until 1991.

If ratified, the treaty would be the first comprehensive land-claims settlement in British Columbia this century.

Glen Clark, Premier of the province, has called the treaty a "template" for talks under way with nearly 50 other tribes.

"We must continue our work to renew the treaty process to ensure it delivers to all First Nations the opportunities that will flow to the Nisga'a," Mr Clark told the gathering.

Lewinsky to tell all to grand jury

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

MEMBERS OF the Washington grand jury will today have their first, long-awaited chance to hear evidence from Monica Lewinsky, the 25-year-old at the centre of the White House sex allegations.

Ms Lewinsky, given immunity from prosecution following two days of legal horse-trading with the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, last week, is expected to say that her relationship with the US President was sexual, despite her earlier sworn denial.



Special prosecutor Kenneth Starr yesterday

This would set her on a collision course with President Clinton, who is reported to be resisting pressure from Democrats and Republicans alike to give a full account of the relationship, even if it means changing his story. Mr Clinton has consistently denied that he had a sexual affair with Ms Lewinsky, and - White House officials repeat - has no plans to say anything in public before he gives evidence to the grand jury. He is to testify on closed circuit television from the White House on 17 August in testimony he promised would be complete and truthful.

News that Ms Lewinsky would make her first grand jury appearance as early as today broke as President Clinton was making one of his infrequent visits to Capitol Hill to bolster his political support among Democrats in Congress.

Mr Clinton's relations with legislators from his own party have often been fractious, with congressional Democrats blaming him personally for the losses they suffered in the last mid-term elections in 1994. Mr Clinton has also fuelled Democrats' resentment because of the legislative compromises he has reached with the Republican majority.

Yesterday with the next mid-term elections only three months away, there was more solidarity for the beleaguered President than recrimination. Mr Clinton was given a standing ovation when he arrived at the closed-door meeting and applauded when he pledged that he would initiate no programmes that would endanger his pledge to balance the budget. The Minority leader in the House, Dick Gephardt, who has at times been at odds with the President politically, said afterwards that the meeting had been "very positive" and chided reporters for seeing everything through the prism of the Lewinsky case. "We didn't cover that in this meeting," he said.

Mr Gephardt nonetheless expressed satisfaction that Mr Clinton had agreed to testify to the grand jury. "We support him in that," said Mr Gephardt, implicitly confirming reports that pressure from Democrats in Congress was a major consideration behind Mr Clinton's decision to testify. The White House had apparently canvassed congressional opinion and found widespread hostility to the idea that Mr Clinton

might defy the subpoena served by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr.

Mr Clinton also separately met members of the Hispanic and black caucuses, from whom he also obtained enthusiastic pledges of support.

The timing of Ms Lewinsky's testimony means that one of the conditions set by Mr Clinton's lawyers has been met, that she should testify first, allowing for the possibility that Mr Clinton might gain some advance knowledge of her account.

Her evidence, which her lawyers promised would be "full and truthful", is expected to take at least a day. But what she says must remain confidential so far as the American public and media are concerned unless she chooses to divulge the details. Although there have been "leaks" aplenty about the deal she struck with the prosecutors, which included surrender of a dress allegedly stained with semen, not a word has emerged from the grand jury room about the evidence of other key witnesses, and Ms Lewinsky's account could well remain the subject of speculation for months.

Bid to keep law out of baby case

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

AS MATERNITY wards all over the US rushed to review procedures, two families in Virginia whose three-year-old children may have been taken home by the "wrong" mothers are trying to settle their seemingly intractable problem amicably, without resort to the courts.

The saga of how Callie Marie Johnson and Rebecca Chittum came to be linked reads like a combination of myth, comic opera and tragedy. Now, though, the families are to agree an arrangement for a situation that has no happy precedent in American law.

The previously tranquil lives of Paula Johnson, 30, and her presumed daughter, Callie Marie, were changed for ever on 3 July, when Ms Johnson received the results of DNA tests on herself and her daughter. They had been requested by her former boyfriend, Carleton Conley, after she had petitioned the courts for an increase in child-support payments.

Mr Conley wanted to be certain the child was his, and - as is routine in such cases - tests were also done to confirm the relationship of mother and child. The results showed not only that Mr Conley was not the father, but that Ms Johnson was not the mother.

Ms Johnson could obtain no immediate confirmation of the results. She did, however, consult a lawyer, Cynthia Johnson (no relation), who said she contacted the University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, where the child was born on 29 June, 1995. Blood tests were taken and records checked. The only possibility seemed to be that, despite the "banding" of mothers and babies with bracelets immediately after birth, Ms Johnson had gone home with the wrong child.

The hospital says procedures were observed in Ms



Ms Johnson tells a press conference of her predicament

Johnson's case, as in others, and that if two children were switched it must have been deliberate, probably a criminal act. Ms Johnson says her baby was taken away immediately after birth for tests because, as a large infant - over 9lb - there was a suspicion of diabetes.

She and her boyfriend say they half-recall that the baby brought to them as theirs subsequently was smaller than the one she held immediately after birth. Records even show Callie Marie lost 2lb between birth and the few days later when she went home.

Ms Johnson said the hospital was unhelpful when contacted about the possible switch; the hospital cites confidentiality and privacy laws. Three weeks later, without contacting Ms Johnson, the hospital contacted relatives of another Virginia couple, Kevin Chittum and Whitney Rogers, who lived 60 miles away.

Their presumed daughter, Rebecca, was born eight hours after Callie Marie, in the same hospital, and was also blonde and blue-eyed. Officials mentioned the possibility that she might have been switched soon after birth and asked for blood samples. By now, reporters were trying to trace Ms Johnson's "real" daughter. Last week a correspondent for USA Today, Dennis Cauchon, found

Rebecca after combing birth registrations, ringing on spec, and finding her family had been contacted by the hospital. He told Ms Johnson's lawyer, and went into print.

However, he uncovered a tragic coincidence. The day after Ms Johnson received the fateful DNA test results, Kevin Chittum and Whitney Rogers died in a car accident. Rebecca was orphaned, and the two sets of grandparents were disputing custody. Except that she has probably not been orphaned: the grandparents are still deciding whether to authorise DNA tests, using blood samples taken during the post-mortem on her two presumed parents.

However, photographs of Rebecca and Callie Marie and their presumed parents seen side by side leave little doubt that the two girls were growing up in the "wrong" families.

As Ms Johnson said tearfully of her reaction when she first saw a picture of Rebecca: "I thought she was a beautiful child, and she looks just like me."

For the time being, the shock of the discovery seems to have halted the custody dispute between Rebecca's grandparents, and Ms Johnson says that she has no intention of going to court to force any one outcome.

Gunmen kill two Jewish settlers

By ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem

THE CRISIS in the stagnant Israeli-Palestinian peace process deepened yesterday following the murder overnight of two Jewish settlers by unknown Arab gunmen.

Harel Bin-Nun, 18, and Shlomo Liebman, 24, were ambushed with AK-47 assault rifles while on a security patrol around the settlement of Yitzhar, near Nablus, the biggest West Bank Arab town. Their assailants finished them off with bullets in the head and escaped with a sub-machine-gun.

Thousands of angry right-wingers followed the funeral procession yesterday afternoon from Jerusalem through the West Bank. Settlers called on the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to break off negotiations with the Palestinian Authority; to expand the Yitzhar settlement; and to allow more settlers to carry arms.

Mr Netanyahu responded that he favoured expanding settlements, but not building new ones.

The Transport Minister, Shaul Yabalom, a leader of the pro-settler National Religious Party, insisted that negotiations be suspended until the Palestinian Authority extradited the killers to Israel - a demand he knows will not be fulfilled.

Yitzhar, in an enclave still under Israeli control, has been the scene of frequent land disputes between settlers and local Arabs. Any expansion is likely to provoke fresh confrontations.

Mr Netanyahu condemned the killings, but stopped short of blaming Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority of severing contacts with his negotiating team.

A senior official stressed, however, that the ambush reinforced Israel's demand for the Palestinian police to disarm private armies hostile to the peace process.

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Warhol's soup cans go home to Slovakia

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Medzilaborce

THE TRANQUIL rolling hills of eastern Slovakia are an unlikely venue for one of the world's finest collections of pop art.

The quiet of a summer afternoon is broken only by the sound of peasants returning home from the fields, and the clip-clop of horses' hooves as they pull their owners' carts through this bucolic landscape.

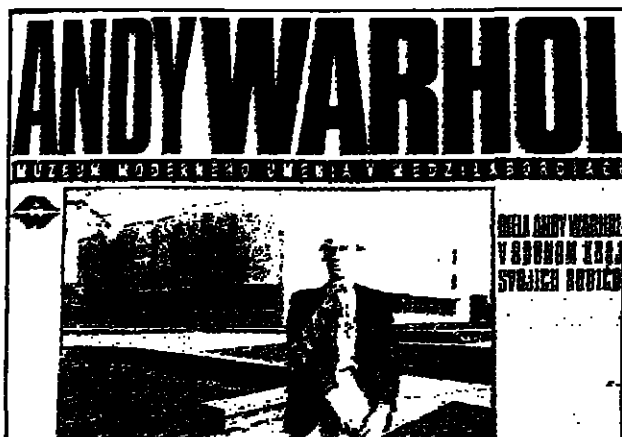
Children stop from their play in the street to wave at rare passing cars, while old women, their walnut brown faces lined by decades of outdoor toil, stare suspiciously at new arrivals.

But despite its isolation, not far from the Ukrainian and Polish borders, the village of Medzilaborce has plenty of visitors: the thousands of tourists a year who make the trek through Ruthenia, as this part of Slovakia is known, to visit the Warhol Family Museum of Modern Art.

Today is the seventieth anniversary of the birth of Andy Warhol, the pop artist and seer who predicted that in the future everyone would have their fifteen minutes of fame. But his has lasted longer than a quarter of an hour and the Warhol museum in Medzilaborce aims to keep his work in the artistic limelight for posterity.

Two giant red and white renditions of Campbell soup cans, physical versions of Warhol's most famous prints, stand outside the museum's entrance. Towering over the museum are the white walls of the Orthodox monastery of St Spirit, for this is a deeply religious area. Warhol himself, until he died in February 1987, was a devout churchgoer.

Along with the publisher



The Warhol museum in Medzilaborce, Slovakia (main) exhibits the artist's prints (left), such as the Warholova cans. Today would have been the artist's 70th birthday

Robert Maxwell, who also came from this much contested part of Europe – alternately grabbed and ceded by Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union – Andy Warhol is probably Ruthenia's most famous son.

Although Warhol, real name Andrew Warhola, was born in Pennsylvania in August 1928, his family had its roots in the village of Mikova, not far from Medzilaborce.

But despite pride in its Ruthenian heritage and the family's commitment to the museum, it's a one-way love affair – museum officials dolefully admit that Warhol's rapid-fire

repeating imagery and iconoclastic artwork are somewhat over the head of the locals.

"The people here don't understand pop art, to be honest. It's intriguing that such western art should be in such an eastern place, so only foreigners and art-lovers visit. It's true that our museum is isolated, but it needs to be here, because this was Andy Warhol's home region," said director Dr Michal Bycko.

Several authorities on Warhol believe that his religious faith – most Ruthenians follow eastern or Greek Catholic rites – influenced his work. His use

of repeated colourful imagery, whether of Marilyn Monroe or Campbell's soup cans can be seen as a modern version of the iconography that is a hallmark of the eastern churches.

During the 1980s Warhol completed a series of paintings of eggs, based on a traditional Ruthenian design. Elaborately painting eggs with elaborate patterns, especially at Easter time, is still a strongly observed folk tradition in both Slovakia and its neighbours such as Ukraine.

Although the museum is subsidised by the Slovak Ministry of Culture, and there are

plans to acquire 10 new original works by Andy Warhol, Dr Bycko says he fears a victory by the hard-line nationalist prime minister Vladimir Meciar in next month's Slovak elections.

Meciar's party, like several of its counterparts in the newly emergent nationalist states in eastern Europe such as Belarus and Croatia, seeks to keep a tight grip on the country's cultural life, shaping it according to a narrow, nationalistic political agenda.

For leaders such as Meciar, Slovak art is there either to be appropriated by the governing party, or should laud its sup-

posed achievements – which does not include Pop Art.

"Cultural politics are terrible here. Before this government we had a very rich culture here. Now everything is defined by whether or not you are considered to be 'pro-Slovak', which means pro-Meciar," said Dr Bycko.

"To say that art is something produced only by people such as Michaelangelo or Rembrandt is a dilettante's view of thinking. How long did it take until Van Gogh was considered a great artist, or even Picasso?"

But whatever the Slovak government's feelings about

Andy Warhol, his family's strong attachment to its roots is evident in the museum. The site's exhibits, some unique in the world, include a record of his mother speaking and singing in the Ruthenian dialect, and several original family photographs and documents as well as many prints.

"The Warhol family artefacts are very important. The whole family kept a very strong connection with Slovakia, and even support the restoration of the local church," said Matt Wrbican, assistant archivist at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh.

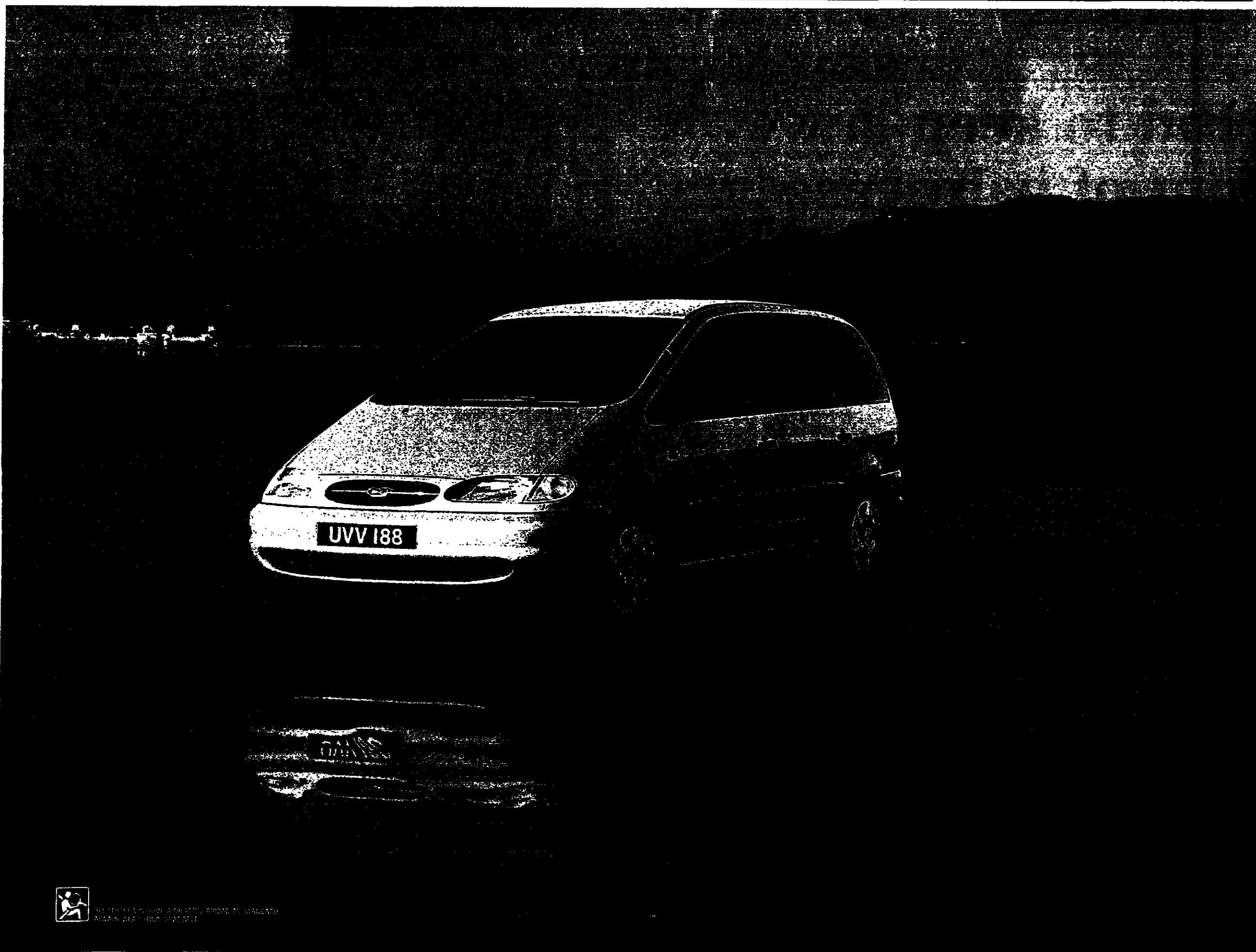
"Warhol himself was very devout, he worshipped at a church in Pittsburgh, and in New York he attended services several times a week. He is buried in a traditional cemetery."

As well as the permanent exhibitions, the museum also organises an art school for children sponsored by the Andy Warhol Foundation in New York. The museum's Factory Art Café is modelled on Warhol's own studio, also called Factory. Most important is the art, including original numbered screenprints such as the second print of Warhol's work "Ingrid Bergmann".



The Warhol museum in Medzilaborce, Slovakia (main) exhibits the artist's prints (left), such as the Warholova cans. Today would have been the artist's 70th birthday

Liba Taylor/Hutchinson



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Wasteland village saved by its women



Life is tough for Dolgin (above) and her neighbours (right) in Hatgal but the outlook is not all bleak. Teresa Poole

FRONTLINE HATGAL, MONGOLIA

IT WAS one of those Hatgal mornings for 77-year-old Dolgin. "My eldest son works as a nightwatchman guarding a small store. Last night he was drunk with some other people, so the police arrested them and kept them in the police station." Leaning wearily on her two crutches at 7.30am, she had just been to the lock-up. "The police say they have to investigate," she said.

Crime is hardly a problem in Hatgal, because there is nothing much to steal. Unemployment and excessive drinking, on the other hand, certainly are. And it is the women of the village who are picking up the pieces, trying fast to reinvent a *raison d'être* for this shrinking community on Mongolia's far-flung northern border with Russia.

In her office, Hatgal's elected woman governor, Togtohyam, sat with her two female senior colleagues, reflecting on how far Hatgal has sunk. The deputy governor, Hishigsuren (who like most Mongolians uses one name), said: "In the old days, there was discipline and principles which were followed. People have become

more inactive. Before 1990, the consumption of alcohol was not at the same level as now."

The old days must seem like another world for the residents who are clinging on. Hatgal's heyday was the late 1980s when its remoteness was its strength. Sitting at the southern tip of Lake Hovsgol, the world's second largest freshwater lake, Hatgal was a busy trading town with a population of 6,500. Wandering the deserted desolate village and surrounding grasslands, now home to just 2,500, it seems unimaginable that transport trucks used to have to queue for two days to pick up goods from the lakeside port.

Lake Hovsgol was Hatgal's lifeline to the world. The lake stretches 85 miles to the north, almost to the border. For seven decades, Mongolia was a satellite Communist state of the USSR, and Soviet-traded goods and raw materials trundled down this route. In the brief summer, there were non-stop cargo ferries. During the winter, when temperatures drop to -40C, the frozen lake was a highway for trucks.

The good life stopped



abruptly in 1989, when Ulan Bator banned transportation on the increasingly polluted lake on environmental grounds. The next year, Mongolia peacefully abandoned Communism, and the Soviet Union abandoned Mongolia, cutting off subsidies equivalent to 30 per cent of gross domestic product. Hatgal suddenly found itself at the end of a long road which no longer went anywhere.

During the early 1990s, it was bad everywhere in Mongolia, but it was worse in Hatgal. The 10 factories all closed, thirsty for subsidised Soviet oil and bereft of markets. "Only

250 people are now employed in Hatgal, out of a labour force of 1,600," said Togtohyam.

It is a bleak, windswept settlement. Low houses and traditional gers tents sit behind stockade fences, with empty wasteland in between. In summer, groups of men sit around on the streets, while Hatgal's two policemen keep the peace. There is no electricity, because Hatgal has no money for diesel to fuel the Japanese-donated generator. On the outskirts of the village sit the carcasses of abandoned buildings, stripped years ago for scrap. The number of sec-

ondary school students collapsed from 1,700 to 560 as people moved away. The only bright development is that Hatgal, not previously a herding centre, now boasts 20,000 private livestock - for food.

So the women are trying to rescue Hatgal. "Most of the administration people here are women. We top three are all women," said 44-year-old Togtohyam. It was in 1994 that the Hatgal villagers requested that she run for governor. Born and raised in Hatgal, she had left for Ulan Bator at the age of 18. Her career as Communist Party mem-

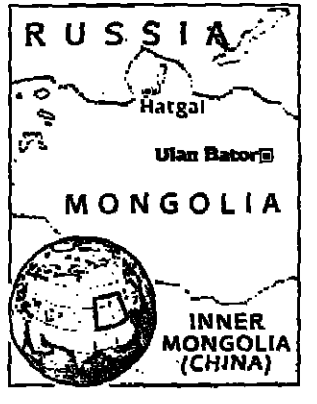
ber and top official at the national Youth Federation saw her rise to the ranking of a deputy minister. But when Communism gave way to democracy and free market capitalism in 1990, she was unceremoniously dumped.

Unemployed, Togtohyam started trading privately with China and Russia, and Hatgal heard about her success. In the 1994 local polls, she was elected Hatgal's governor, the first woman in the post. She ran as a Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) member, the old Communist Party. "The party made some mistakes, of

course, in its history but there were a lot of achievements."

Tragedy then struck. In 1995, her businessman husband drowned, leaving her with a son, now eight, and a village still near collapse. Improving the lives of the women became a priority. "Sometimes when I started as governor, women just came into my office, put their babies on my table and told me their children needed to eat." At the end of 1997, some 78 per cent of Hatgal's under-18s were classified as malnourished.

Togtohyam is up for re-election in October this year.



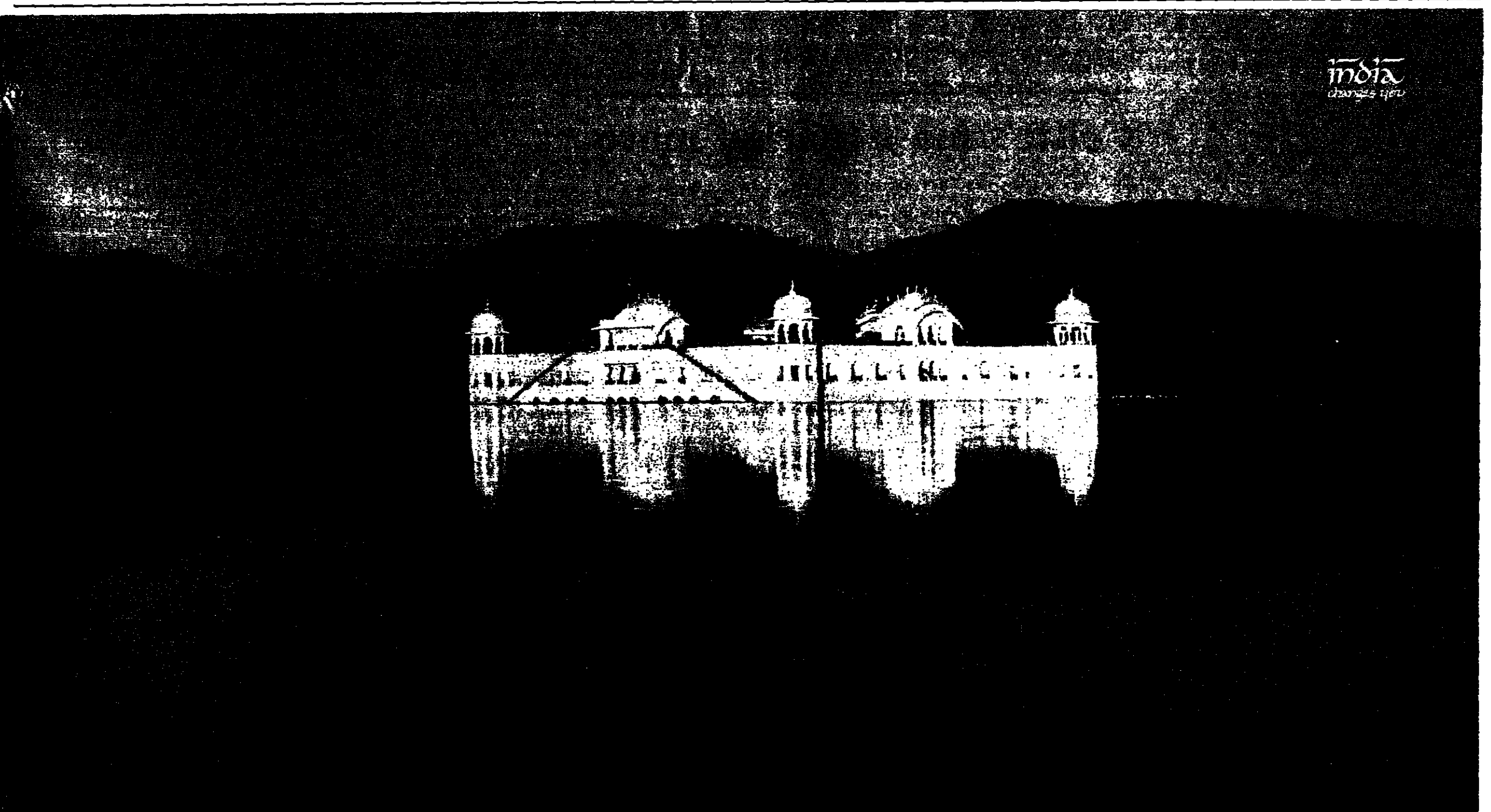
"Things have started to get better in the past two years," she said. Hatgal now officially has 11 private-sector workers, operating small shops and restaurants. "The psychology of the people has changed. Now they are trying to make money by themselves. They used to see the government just as something to depend on."

The shops are almost all run by women, selling simple foodstuffs and clothes brought in from Ulan Bator, a 25-hour drive away.

Togtohyam has been offering small, low-interest loans to encourage business start-ups, and seeking aid money from overseas funders. Tourism is Hatgal's big hope, with 1,000 visitors in 1997. The water in the lake is now so clean that locals claim they can see to depths of 150 feet. The problem is the difficulty getting to Hatgal, and the short summer season.

In the meantime, the governor is surrounded by problems she cannot solve, and her best electoral strategy probably lies in persuading Japan to donate diesel for the generator before the October poll.

The election is expected to be fiercely contested by many candidates. "Hatgal is politically a very active place. Maybe because of unemployment they have nothing to do, or maybe it's because they have poor living standards, the people are actively participating in the political affairs," she said. As elsewhere in Mongolia, democracy is proving a quicker success than capitalism. But Togtohyam is fighting on: "I want to prove to local people that women can do a lot for the area."



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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Laporte gains control of Inspec

Laporte, the chemicals group, has secured an agreed deal to buy specialty chemicals group Inspec for £61.1m. The 340p per share cash offer has been accepted by Inspec's directors with 1 per cent of the share capital. As a result of aggressive share buying in the market Laporte now controls an additional 26 per cent of its target.

The price represents a 40 per cent premium to the closing price of Inspec share on 3 August, the last day of dealings before Laporte announced it was in talks that may lead to a deal.

Laporte expects to generate £8m-£10m a year in cost savings though it would not comment on the possible level of job losses. It will take provision of £20m to cover the cost of the integration over the next 18 months.

Inspec's chairman Dr John Hollowood will become non-executive director of Laporte. Gary Corsi, Inspec's finance director will leave with shares valued at £2.5m.

Laporte yesterday reported flat first half profits of £66.8m hit by the strong pound and the Asian crisis.

Inspec shares closed a penny higher at 333.5p. Laporte's shares fell 15.5p to 640.5p.

Schweppes 'gets tough' in US



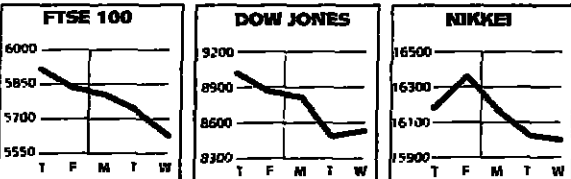
Cadbury Schweppes has pledged to "get tough" on the independent bottlers which distribute its drinks brands in America after figures yesterday showed weak sales in certain areas. John Sunderland, Cadbury's chief executive, is introducing a performance-based fee system to encourage better sales. Otherwise he said the company is likely to make acquisitions in the independent sector to ensure it can battle more effectively against Coca-Cola and Pepsi which control their own distribution systems.

Sales of Dr Pepper rose by 6 per cent in the US in the first half against a market up 4 per cent. However, Seven Up continued to struggle against the Coca-Cola owned Sprite. Seven Up sales dipped by 2 per cent.

Prudential to invest in ScotAm

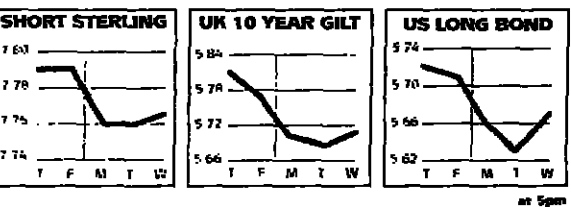
Prudential, the life and pensions group, has revealed plans to invest £15m over two years at Scottish Amicable's head office, creating 500 jobs in the process. This will boost ScotAm's staffing levels to about 2,300 at Craigforth, its head office. It was taken over by the Prudential in 1997.

STOCK MARKETS



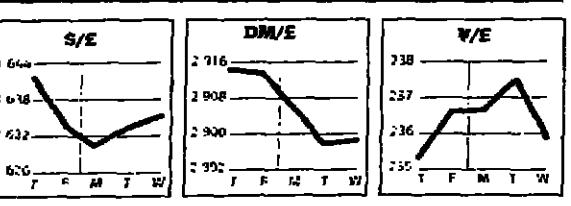
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	YTD (%)
FTSE 100	5632.50	-18.60	-0.33	6183.70	4382.80	3.70
FTSE 250	5231.50	-123.40	-2.37	5970.90	4428.30	3.75
FTSE 350	2716.10	-52.40	-1.89	2969.10	2141.80	3.71
FTSE All Share	2643.40	-50.65	-1.88	2886.52	2106.59	3.70
FTSE SmallCap	2415.20	-42.10	-1.71	2793.80	2188.10	3.46
FTSE Financials	1320.00	-24.30	-1.81	1517.10	1225.20	3.59
FTSE AIM	1041.80	-18.60	-1.76	1146.90	965.90	1.27
FTSE EBLK 100	1026.14	-20.65	-1.97			
Dow Jones	8531.59	-46.34	-0.55	9367.84	6971.32	1.72
Nikkei	15992.16	-31.42	-0.20	19772.18	14488.21	0.96
Hang Seng	7656.43	-114.37	-1.51	16820.31	7351.68	5.47
Dax	5632.51	-123.69	-2.15	6217.83	3487.24	2.95

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	15 year	30 year	Yr Ago
UK	7.75	0.56	7.75	0.20	5.71	-1.33	5.37
US	5.69	-0.03	5.79	-0.22	5.44	-0.79	5.67
Japan	0.54	0.04	0.66	-0.07	1.52	-0.34	2.06
Germany	3.52	0.27	3.80	0.25	4.60	-1.12	5.22

CURRENCIES



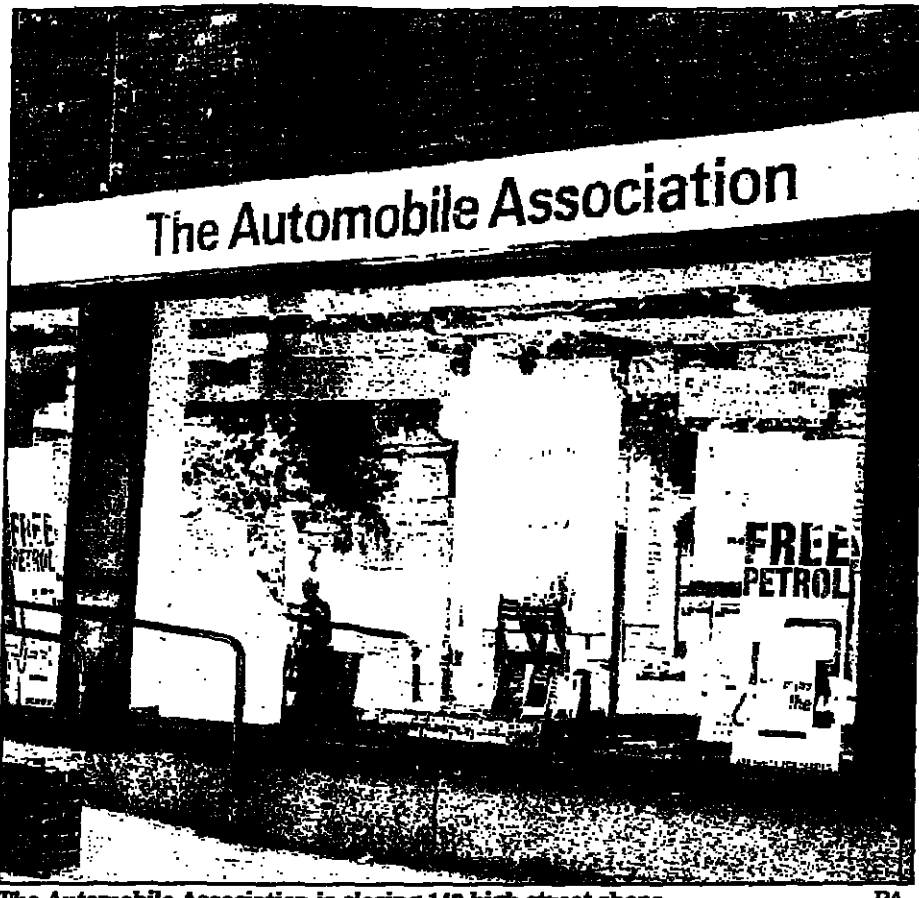
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	Yr Ago
Pound	1.6352	+0.023	1.4247	1.6123
Dollar	2.8955	-1.13p	3.0562	2.8841
Yen	235.82	-40.74	193.82	235.82
Euro	104.00	-0.30	103.70	103.70

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.22	0.30	19.90
Gold (\$)	287.55	-0.80	320.65
Silver (\$)	5.47	0.09	4.45

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6042
Austria (schillings)	19.75
Belgium (francs)	58.05
Canada (\$)	2.4152
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8247
Denmark (krone)	10.78
Finland (markka)	8.5952
France (francs)	9.4258
Germany (marks)	2.8536
Greece (drachma)	466.76
Hong Kong (\$)	12.30
Ireland (pounds)	1.1156
India (rupees)	63.89
Israel (shekels)	55.06
Italy (lira)	2.788
Japan (yen)	230.85
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4511
Malta (lira)	0.6159



The Automobile Association is closing 142 high street shops

AA quits high street in economy drive

THE AUTOMOBILE Association yesterday launched a major economy drive which will see it withdraw from the high street and pull out of areas unconnected to its roadside breakdown operations.

The AA is closing down its 142 high-street shops with the loss of 850 jobs. It is also selling Home Assistance, its emergency plumbing and DIY operation, to Aon Risk Services, the US group.

Meanwhile, the AA has also ended its insurance underwriting joint venture with Eagle Star.

The moves are the result of a major strategic review announced last year by John Maxwell, the AA's director general, which is designed to make the organisation more efficient. This follows increased com-

Celtic's main market move

CELTIC, the Scottish football club, yesterday announced plans to list on the main stock market in a radical overhaul which will see its controversial chairman, Fergus McCann, net more than £30m from the sale of his majority stake.

Mr McCann confirmed plans to step down in spring as chairman and chief executive of the Scottish champions after five years in charge. His departure will follow Celtic's move from the junior Alternative Investment Market to the main index.

Mr McCann said he wanted to sell his 50.1 per cent stake, valued at nearly £32m at yesterday's price, to shareholders and fans rather than to "faceless City institutions". He said: "I will not be selling my stake to a con-

trolling shareholder. The plan is to give it to shareholders and fans." He planned to use the money to pursue business interests outside the UK.

Celtic's financial advisers were yesterday studying the possibility of a rights issue which would give existing shareholders first refusal on Mr McCann's stock. However, analysts believe that existing stakeholders would be unable to buy the entire stake.

Mr McCann has been locked in a battle with Brian Dempsey, a former director of the club, who has repeatedly accused him of disregarding the interests of Celtic's fans. Mr Dempsey, a wealthy property

developer, was the head of a group of investors, including Simple Minds singer Jim Kerr, U2 star Bono and Scotland's biggest lottery winner, John McGuinness, which recently tried to wrest control of the club from Mr McCann.

Mr Dempsey told *The Independent* his group may seek to buy part of the chairman's stake if it is offered on the market after the rights issue.

The club will also implement a 100-for-1 share split to increase liquidity. The shares traded at an unrealistic £220 following yesterday's £5 rise. Celtic yesterday announced a 38 per cent rise in net profits to £7.1m despite a 14 per cent slide in operating profits due to higher players' salaries.

Wall Street drift shakes City nerves

THE US STOCK MARKET continued its downward drift yesterday following Tuesday's 300-point fall, sparking a sell-off in London and other European bourses. With less than an hour's trading to go, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was 120 points lower at 8367.33.

European stock markets had a nervous day's trading. In London, the FTSE 100 closed 103.6 points down, at 5632.5 having at one point been 163 points lower.

The German DAX index ended 2.15 per cent lower, while the French CAC-40 index closed down 1.78 per cent.

For once, Asian markets seemed largely immune to the market fluctuations in the US, and there was even a glimmer of light in Japan, where the stock market registered a minuscule loss and the battered yen managed a modest recovery.

The new government gave the go-ahead for a bank rescue plan by providing bridging finance and confirmed that the highest rate of income tax was being cut from 65 to 50 per cent.

In Hong Kong, where the link to American markets is reinforced by the currency's tie to the US dollar, the blue chip

measures were also encouraging. The technology-intensive Nasdaq composite rose 11.27 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 1,796.91, and the New York Stock Exchange composite index was up 4.62 at 545.98. The broadly-based S&P 500 was up 11.73 at 1883.55.

However, analysts predicted that the markets would remain jittery over the near-to-medium term.

Mr Montier commented: "This could develop into a 15 per cent correction over the next month or so, although that is not a crash by any standards."

Declining issues outnumbered rising stocks by 10 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange, reflecting the broader concerns about corporate profits for the rest of the year.

Meanwhile, there was also a bout of unsettling rumours from China, where it was reported that the local currency was trading at a four-year low against the US dollar on the black market. This suggests that investors are preparing for a devaluation of the yuan.

Outlook, page 17
Hamish McRae
Review page 5

Services boom revives interest-rate concerns

NEW EVIDENCE yesterday of continued strong growth in UK services rekindled interest-rate fears ahead of today's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS) said levels of both new business and employment continued to rise in the UK services sector in July, although there were signs of a slowdown in growth.

Separate data on industrial production painted a better-than-expected picture of UK manufacturing. Manufacturing output stabilised in June and the sector is now out of recession, at least from a technical standpoint.

Economists define recession as two consecutive quarters of negative growth in gross domestic product (GDP). Manufacturing GDP declined in the last quarter of 1997 and the first of 1998, putting the sector into recession. However, manufacturing GDP grew by 0.1 per cent in the second quarter of this year, according to yesterday's figures.

However, experts dismissed the numbers as a "false dawn".

David Hillier at Barclays Capital said: "The sharp deterioration in both the CBI and the CIPS survey (two recent surveys of UK manufacturing) in recent months suggest that output will fall significantly in the third quarter."

Michael Saunders at Salomon Smith Barney said: "It is probably too early for the collapse shown in the manufacturing surveys in May, June and July to be fully reflected in the official output data."

Yesterday's CIPS survey of services found that the index of business activity weakened to 55.9 in July from 56.8 in June.

The weakest growth in activity since the survey began two years ago. However, CIPS said the sector was still growing - an index above 50 implies expansion - and noted that companies in some areas were experiencing staff shortages.

There was a further marked rise in wages and salaries in UK services, seen by some City economists as further evidence that growth in the sector continues to run above trend.

The strong services survey rekindled concerns that the MPC could today announce another rise in interest rates, although most in the City thought the committee was more likely to keep rates on hold. "Rates on hold, but only just," said economists at ABN Amro.

The Institute of Directors (IOD) yesterday pleaded with the MPC not to raise rates again. John Redwood, shadow trade and industry spokesman, said the MPC should ask the Chancellor to change policies. Sterling closed at DM2.899, just up on the day but a ptening down on yesterday's close. Leading article, Review, page 3

Surprise new British Biotech chief

BRITISH BIOTECH, the troubled drug development company, yesterday ended its long quest for a chairman with the surprise appointment of a Canadian-born businessman with little experience of the pharmaceutical industry.

Christopher Hampson, 66, the chairman of building materials producer RMC, will replace John Raisman when he retires at the end of September. Mr Hampson, seen as an heavyweight City player, is set

to receive a pay package of around £70,000, in line with his predecessor's wages. Mr Raisman headed the company during its most turbulent period. He sided with Dr Keith McCullagh, the outgoing chief executive, in the battle with Dr Andrew Millar, the sacked head of clinical trials. Dr Millar has repeatedly accused Dr McCullagh of issuing overoptimistic statements over

the progress of two of the company's star drugs. Mr Raisman's retirement was widely expected in view of his age, but no one predicted Mr Hampson's appointment.

The company insisted that Mr Hampson, who has been chairman of Yorkshire Electricity and chief executive of the Australian division of ICL, was its first choice. Mr Hampson told *The Independent* yesterday that he was "dubious" when first approached a month ago

because of the publicity generated by the Millar affair. However, he said he was persuaded to accept after meeting "the good people and seeing the good technology" British Biotech has.

He admitted he had little pharmaceutical experience but said his role would be to manage and co-ordinate the company's resources, leaving the scientific work to the experts. Mr Hampson said the main challenge would be to rebuild investor confidence, which is at a low ebb following the Millar-McCullagh feud. The company's share price is trading near its all-time low.



Christopher Hampson: Heavyweight player

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSE crashed 103.6 points to 5,632.5 as New York's overnight slump battered confidence. The blue-chip index is now at its lowest since February after hitting a 6.179 peak last month. Second and third line shares joined in the retreat.

The market remains uneasy about the White House sex scandal, the Asian outlook, sterling's strength and the threat of higher interest rates. Cadbury Schweppes was one of the few blue chips in form, gaining 27p to 864p.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

WALL STREET stocks were little changed in afternoon trading after a rollercoaster morning following the Dow's 299-point slide on Tuesday.

"I would like to see the Dow sell off more, to between 8,350 and 8,300 points, as that would be a much better test," said Harry Laubscher, market analyst at Tucker Anthony. The Dow fell 15.45 to 8,471.86 by early afternoon. "The lows are being tested, but right now we are just sitting pat," Mr Laubscher said.

TOKYO

THE SLIDE in Tokyo shares came to a halt yesterday after a rally in banking stocks and a flood of public pension buying. The benchmark Nikkei average closed down 31.42 points at 15,992.16.

"The decision by the government to make tax cuts for businesses and taxpayers helped halt the slide in shares. Bank shares, heavily hit in the past few days, led the rally. The Nikkei index jumped 0.96 per cent. Some dealers felt investors were taking advantage of recent falls to build back positions.

FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S benchmark DAX index ended 2.15 per cent lower at 5,632.51, having recouped ground lost in an earlier fall to a low of 5,634.55.

Retail group Metro bucked the trend, rising on denied reports that it was poised to bid for British food distribution group Booker. The giant German computer firm SAP, which started trading on the New York exchange this week, took a battering after Tuesday's US hi-tech falls, dropping DM73.

DUBLIN

THE IRISH bourse fell more than 2 per cent, following declines in London and New York. Buyers feared further falls, said traders.

"The market is looking for some direction from Wall Street and is not getting it, so people are sitting low in the bunkers," one trader said. The Irish SE index closed 104.18 points down at 5,011.13 after earlier plunging to a day's low of 4,976.6, its lowest since 5 June. AIB, which released strong interim results, ended unchanged.

AIB record profits, page 19

مكتبة الأمل

سكاي نيوز

When the bears run, head for bonds

THE BEARS came out to play and the bulls stayed away. Wall Street's 300-point plunge on Tuesday night was followed by more gyrations in the Dow yesterday. London caught the overnight mood, ending the day just over 100 points down though it would probably have been worse had it not been for the modest rally New York staged in early trading. So, are we seeing the much-touted correction that will bring western stock markets back down to earth after one of the longest bull runs in most people's memories?



OUTLOOK

Certainly projections that the Dow would smash through 10,000 by the end of the year, dragging the footsie into 7,000-plus territory, now look hopelessly optimistic. On the contrary, Wall Street and London have been staging a steady retreat, hand in hand. In the last three weeks the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the FTSE-100 have fallen by 8.5 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

But no-one can really put their finger on the reason why. In the absence of anything more tangible, the triple jinx of Asian flu, Lewinsky blues and profit downgrades was being blamed for Tuesday's fall on Wall Street.

But the markets are all over the place, unable to decide whether deflation or stagflation is the greater threat and quite clearly dislocated from what is happening in the real economy. Wall Street's blockbuster performance for much of the last four years cannot be explained by the fundamentals of the US economy, strong though those have been. Instead it has been driven by the tide of money flooding into the mutual funds.

There is some evidence that the tide might now be starting to go out but it would take a mass panic among retail investors on a grand scale to justify the most bearish forecasts.

Meanwhile the US economy remains more at risk from spiralling inflation than economic downturn, if the chairman of the Fed is right. The Asian downturn could change sentiment but so far its impact has been muted. In so much as there is a global market, it has tended to expose the deficiencies of the Asian economies rather than allow them to infect their Western counterparts.

Investors looking for a clue in Wall Street's gyrations might reflect that while equities fell, long bonds strengthened. The past convention has been for equities to outperform bonds but if this is any pointer and there is a global slowdown underway then it could turn out to be a bond friendly one. The more the markets focus on corporate earnings, the harder it will be for equities to retain their current ratings. That will make a flight to bonds all the more attractive.

The AA does a quick U-turn

AS CHANGES in direction go, the handbrake turn executed yesterday by the Automobile Association

is as abrupt as they come. At first, the strategy was to leverage more profit out of its membership base by selling its 9.5 million breakdown members everything from insurance and route maps to tyre levers.

That plan was comprehensively junked yesterday in favour of concentrating on the core breakdown business.

Perhaps the only surprise about the AA's decision to withdraw from the high street is that it has not done so before. As tragic as the move is for the 850 employees involved, the writing has been on the wall ever since Direct Line showed several years ago that drivers were more than happy to buy their car insurance over the phone.

The AA followed suit and the result is that just one in five of its insurance policies are now bought over the counter of one of its shops.

A couple of years ago the AA would have shrugged and tried to use its trustworthy image to sell some other unrelated service. The result, however, was that the AA took its eye off the emergency services from which it derives its good

name. It may still call itself the Fourth Emergency Service but a load of drivers decided to try their luck elsewhere.

With the RAC and Green Flag about to be merged - regulators permitting - and Direct Line picking up thousands of new customers a month with its new breakdown service, competition is only going to get more intense.

John Maxwell, the AA's director general, recognises this and has put the entire business under review. He is closing shops and selling Home Assistance - a failed concept which was supposed to be an AA recovery service for the home.

These are the easy bits. He now has to decide whether the AA should be in things like maps, insurance and driving lessons.

Underlying all this is an overriding question: whether the AA should remain as a mutual organisation. With any windfall likely to be divided between all 8.4m members the financial incentives for potential carpetbaggers are slim.

But the AA has not shown itself to be the most nimble of organisations in the past. With car travel

increasingly on the wane, the AA may well end up wondering what it is for in a few years' time.

A tough job at British Biotech

IF THERE were a list of the world's worst jobs, then running British Biotech would rank right up there alongside Japanese finance minister and public apologist for Camelot. Yesterday the 69-year old chairman of British Biotech, John Raisman, announced he was making way for the youthful figure of Christopher Hampson, aged 56.

None of Mr Hampson's previous incarnations - ICI, Yorkshire Electricity, Costain - could possibly prepare him for this job and he freely admits that he took a long, hard, sceptical look before accepting it.

Now that he is on board, however, he is looking forward to maintaining the group's tradition of innovative research and development and successfully commercialising its products. If half of the claims made by its ex-director of clinical trials, Andrew Miller, are true, then

British Bio's approach to research is certainly innovative.

As for successfully commercialising its products, Zacutex is dead in the water while the future of the cancer treatment Marimastat is hanging by a thread. Repeating all the trials for Zacutex that Dr Miller unblinkingly would be prohibitively expensive. British Bio can only hope that Marimastat does not face the same prospect.

What else can Mr Hampson look forward to? Well, there is the chance to appear before a Commons select committee (hankie at the ready). Then, of course, there is the task of liaising with all those supportive shareholders like Perpetual.

The fact that Mr Hampson will be paid circa £30,000 to do the job suggests that he will need to be a little more than the traditional non-executive, part-time figure head. Of course, his most urgent task will be to fill the least appealing job of all - the one of chief executive which Keith McCullagh is vacating in September. Mr Hampson says British Bio will look internally and externally. Like the Japanese political institution, it will probably have to fall back on one of its own.

It could be different this time

News Analysis: A hard or a soft landing? In past recessions, Britain has always managed a crash

THE MEMBERS of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee probably do not realise it, but when they gather this morning they might care to mark a significant anniversary for the Bank.

Almost 10 years ago to the day, on 8 August 1988, the Bank (in those days the Bank of England) announced a half point rise in its base rate, from 10.5 per cent to 11 per cent. The move was hardly unexpected. In fact, base rates were moving upwards with alarming regularity. Between the beginning of June and 8 August, base rates were increased no less than seven times. People thought rates had peaked after the August move, but they were wrong. Two weeks later there was another rise, then another.

Surprisingly, even in the midst of such a severe squeeze, there was still a debate as to whether the Treasury and the Bank would succeed in engineering a soft landing for the economy. It was a debate that raged on for the best part of the next year, as interest rates carried on rising.

Now once again we have a war of words between the soft landers and the hard landers. And the protagonists are the same. The warnings of a hard landing came from the business community, fearful of what lies in store for their order books and their profits. The assurances of a soft landing came from government, hopeful that the economy can be slowed without being stopped dead or even put into reverse.

It is instructive to see what did happen last time the argument was raging. In 1990 the economy stagnated. In 1991 output fell sharply and in 1992 it carried on falling. In those two years consumer spending fell nearly 2.5 per cent. New car sales fell by 13 per cent in 1990 and by over 20 per cent the next year. Unemployment, on the claimant count, rose from

BY STEVE LEVINSON

1.6 million in 1990 to 2.9 million in 1993. The people who were arguing about whether the economy was heading for a soft or a hard landing were both wrong. What we got was a crash landing.

An analysis of the previous recession provides a similar picture. The economy contracted sharply in 1980 and 1981. Consumer spending showed no growth. New car sales dropped by nearly 15 per cent in the two years and unemployment went from 1.3 million in 1980 to 2.8 million in 1983.

Again that was not a soft landing nor a hard landing. It was an economic crash. In fact if you look at a long run of output figures for the UK, one thing is very clear. The UK economy has not had a soft landing or a hard landing for nearly 30 years. Every landing has been of the crash variety. It is what the current government has come to label the boom-and-bust cycle, with the emphasis on the bust. The question now is whether we have embarked on a re-run of British economic history or whether something new is at work.

Certainly one thing is new, and this brings us back to today's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee. It is the first time the task of piloting the landing has been taken out of the hands of the government of the day and handed to someone else - the independent Bank of England. But what sort of difference should that make? The answer to that question depends on the answer to another. What role do policy-makers have in determining the sort of recession an economy has to live through?

Again a look at the past two recessions is instructive. Every industrial nation goes through an economic cycle. But something about the British economy or the way it has been

managed has ensured that we have been subjected to crash landings, whereas elsewhere they have been much more successful at engineering soft landings.

Take for example the recession of the early 1990s. It was clearly an international phenomenon. But while we were seeing output crash over a period of three years, Germany, France, and the US suffered a loss of output in only one year, while Japan showed positive growth throughout. For the G7 nations as a whole there was not even a single year when output turned negative. The worst of the world recession was 1993, when G7 growth slowed to 1 per cent.

In the recession of the early 1980s it was the same story. We crashed, the rest glided.

The inevitable conclusion is that in the UK we have developed an unenviable capacity to turn a cyclical downturn into a full-blown crisis. But why, and how? The answer is that we have in the past made horrendous policy errors, which have succeeded in making things much worse than they need be.

Just recall what happened in the run-up to the recession of the early 1990s in the UK. One policy mistake, the Lawson boom, was followed by a second and third policy gaffe. Interest rates were ratcheted up to 15 per cent by the end of 1989, and for

a full 12 months they were left unchanged at that level.

John Major was the Chancellor, and industry was poleaxed. The pound sailed above three marks and to two dollars. The policy turned a recession into a crash. And there was worse to come. In his last act as Chancellor, Mr Major put Britain into the exchange rate mechanism. It was the wrong decision at the wrong time and at the wrong rate. The crash was inevitable.

Ten years earlier, the previous recession was also policy induced. That time it was an overvalued pound, another interest rate peak of 17 per cent, and on top of that a severe fis-

cal squeeze that did the trick. So if recent history is anything to go by the real danger to the British economy is not the economic cycle but policy-making blunders. And that is the context in which we should judge the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

For all the fuming and fulminating by the Bank's critics, for all the claims that the committee members are "too academic" and "out of touch with the real world", the Bank can hardly be said to have blundered badly so far. It can be argued that rates should have been increased more quickly, or that they should have gone higher so that by now we would be contemplating falling interest rates. But these are arguments around the edges of policy.

If rates do go higher, by perhaps another quarter or half point, before they come down it will bring more complaints from industry. But it will hardly be a disaster on the scale of previous blunders made by the politicians when they were in charge. This time round, if the Bank holds its nerve, there is for the first time in a generation the chance that Britain might actually experience what other countries regard as normal, a soft landing for the economy. And 10 years on that would be a real reason to celebrate.

WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

Early 1980s: Crash landing

	GDP, %	Consumer expenditure, %	Unemployment, millions
1979	2.7	4.3	1.074
1980	-2.1	0.0	1.364
1981	-1.1	0.1	2.172

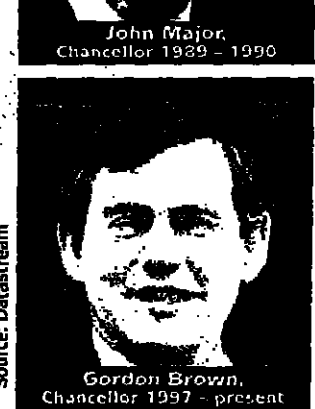
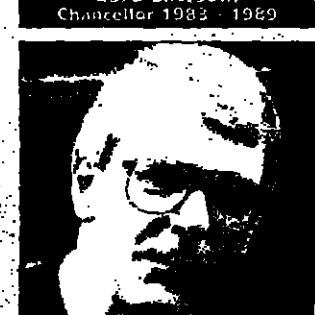
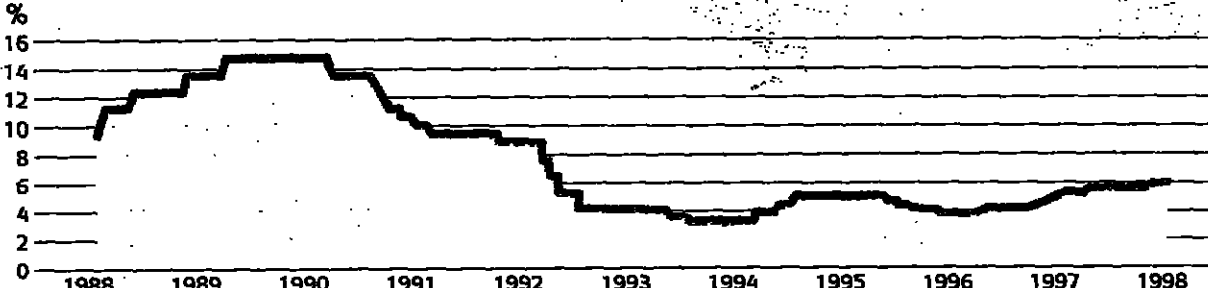
Early 1990s: Crash landing

	GDP, %	Consumer expenditure, %	Unemployment, millions
1989	2.3	3.2	1.782
1990	0.6	0.6	1.661
1991	-2.1	-2.2	2.286
1992	-0.5	-0.1	2.765

Late 1990s: Soft landing?

	GDP, %	Consumer expenditure, %	Unemployment, millions
1997	3.1	4.6	1.586
1998 (latest)	2.6	4.9	1.368

Ten years of interest rate policies



IN BRIEF

Boeing's £53m training centre

BOEING, the world's largest aircraft manufacturing company, is setting up a £53m hi-tech pilot and cabin crew training centre in London or Gatwick.

The first Boeing training centre of its kind built outside the US is expected to attract 3,000 pilots and technicians a year when it opens with 16 sophisticated flight simulators in 2000. It will be one of five such Boeing training centres in the world.

Good advice

INDEPENDENT Financial Advisers (IFAs) raised their share of the investment and insurance market to 55.27 per cent in the first quarter, up 1.92 percentage points on the same period in 1997, according to an IFA press release. It said the overall size of the market was also up at just over £11bn, up £2bn on the first quarter in 1997.

Sony to pay up

SONY has agreed to pay a \$1m (£630,000) fine to settle charges levied by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that it violated reporting provisions applicable to foreign investors, the SEC said.

According to the Commission, in the four months preceding Sony's November 1994 writedown of about \$2.7bn of goodwill associated with the acquisition of its Sony Pictures subsidiary, the company made "inadequate disclosures" about the nature and extent of Sony Pictures' net losses and their impact on the company's consolidated results. Sony agreed to pay the \$1m fine without admitting or denying the SEC's allegations.

Cathay let-down

CATHAY PACIFIC, the Hong Kong based airline, yesterday warned investors that it faced another tough year in 1999 as it reported a first-half loss of HK\$1.75m (£140k), against HK\$1.07m profit for the same period last year. The carrier said it was being hit by problems plaguing air cargo operations at Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport, which opened in July.

The chairman, Peter Sutch, also denied that there were any plans for Cathay to take a stake in British Airways, or for BA to take a stake in Cathay.

BA growth

BRITISH AIRWAYS said its mainline scheduled passenger traffic in July grew by 17.8 per cent on the same month last year. But with available seat kilometres showing growth of 21.1 per cent, this resulted in a 2.1 point decline in the passenger load factor to 75.6 per cent, it said.

Premium traffic, affected by last year's industrial dispute, showed growth of 14 per cent against growth in the main cabin of 18.4 per cent, it added. After allowing for the effects of the dispute, July traffic growth would have been broadly in line with June this year, BA said.

Hanson to pay £168m to end US site contamination row

HANSON, the building materials group, yesterday agreed to pay £168m to cap its environmental liabilities in a long-running dispute with the US authorities dating back to its days as a division of Lord Hanson's conglomerate.

The company, formed from the break-up of the conglomerate last February, will pay the sum as a one-off premium to two insurers which will guarantee up to £485m to cover Hanson's clean-up costs at over 100 contaminated sites in the US.

The deal puts an end to a long-running saga which has cast a cloud of uncertainty over the company's finances for the past seven years. The building

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

materials producer inherited the sites when it bought the housebuilder Beazer in 1991, when Hanson was still part of the huge group headed by Lord Hanson.

As part of the £350m deal, Hanson agreed to take on all liabilities arising from the contamination of land by Koppers, a chemical company then owned by Beazer. The firm had been prosecuted by the US Environmental Agency (EPA) for leaking dangerous chemicals on 119 sites in the US.

Under yesterday's deal with the reinsurers Centre Solutions - part of the Swiss giant Zurich - and Swiss Re, Hanson

will pay the first \$100m (£81m) of the clean-up costs, with the insurers covering the rest of the liability up to £485m. Hanson said it was confident that the cover, which has an unlimited timescale, would be more than enough to pay for any liability arising from the dispute.

Provision for the clean-up costs was initially thought to be in excess of \$2bn, but it was later scaled down to \$675m (£512m) to reflect a less confrontational attitude from the EPA.

Hanson said yesterday that after allowing for the £168m premium and for minor ongoing costs for staff and legal fees, £67m of the provision would no longer be required. The sum

would be credited to the next set of accounts, together with a £73m gain from the settlement of related legal disputes.

Andrew Dougal, the chief executive, said the deal would help the company on the completion of a number of acquisitions of US building materials companies. "They will not be old-Hanson flamboyant-style acquisitions, they will be small, focused buys," he said, adding that the company would be announcing details of a deal "very shortly".

The stock market signalled its approval of the insurance agreement by marking Hanson shares 13p higher to 336p in spite of a sharp fall in the overall index.

Woolwich seeks joint venture with insurers

WOOLWICH building society is seeking to create a joint venture with an insurance company in a bid to step up its presence in savings and investments.

John Stewart, the chief executive, said he had spoken to more than one insurance company with a view to entering into a joint venture, but had not yet entered detailed talks.

Mr Stewart said: "We could be interested in insurers. Anyone with good customer information we would be interested in talking to for a joint venture."

He dismissed reports that Woolwich was looking at a tie-up with Alliance & Leicester, which has indicated its interest in a merger. Talks with another retail bank or building soci-

ety would run against the best corporate strategy for the Woolwich, he said.

"If that happened, the good news would be that we could cut costs. The bad news would be what happened with Halifax and the Leeds, or Abbey National and N&P. Did their market shares go up? For all sorts of different buying reasons, customers can walk."

Woolwich unveiled profits up 12.1 per cent to £240m on the back of a jump in non-core businesses such as unit trusts and PEPs. Excluding PEPs set up to hold windfall shares, sales were up 36 per cent. The society's market share

of mortgage lending shrank to less than one-third of its normal level in the first half of 1998 to just 1.5 per cent. Much of this was due to the "post-conversion effect" where customers redeem mortgages after waiting for windfalls, but Mr Stewart conceded that the society might not rebuild its share to its historic level of 5.5 per cent.

While market share of lending did recover in the second quarter to more than 3 per cent, the Woolwich insists it will not sacrifice margins to chase market share.

Mr Stewart said the strategy was to diversify and improve income from non-core businesses, competing on service as much as price.

Thursday 6 August 1991

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	REMARKS
11-17-40	07:00	11-17-40	11-17-40
11-17-40	07:00	11-17-40	11-17-40
11-17-40	07:00	11-17-40	11-17-40
11-17-40	07:00	11-17-40	11-17-40

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

-2.02	5.64	5.00
-2.54	5.64	5.00
-3.06	5.64	5.00
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6.227		
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June		
24	-1.05	0.50 3.75
15	-1.29	1.87 3.75
28	-0.88	2.39 3.75
33	-1.05	3.13 3.75
<hr/>		
by (month)		
<hr/>		
0.07	0.50	2.09
-1.80	1.15	3.75
-1.62	2.34	3.75
-0.75	1.64	2.25
-1.68	2.14	3.75
-0.90	7.14	0.00
-1.56	3.00	3.75
-0.96	1.24	3.75

[illegible]

25-29	1.3	0.0	0.0
30-34	1.3	0.0	0.0
35-39	1.4	0.0	0.0
40-44	3.4	0.0	0.0
45-49	3.4	0.0	0.0
50-54	3.4	0.0	0.0
55-59	3.4	0.0	0.0
60-64	3.4	0.0	0.0
65-69	3.4	0.0	0.0
70-74	3.4	0.0	0.0
75-79	3.4	0.0	0.0
80-84	3.4	0.0	0.0
85-89	3.4	0.0	0.0
90-94	3.4	0.0	0.0
95-99	3.4	0.0	0.0
100-104	3.4	0.0	0.0
105-109	3.4	0.0	0.0
110-114	3.4	0.0	0.0
115-119	3.4	0.0	0.0
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145-149	3.4	0.0	0.0
150-154	3.4	0.0	0.0
155-159	3.4	0.0	0.0
160-164	3.4	0.0	0.0
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195-199	3.4	0.0	0.0
200-204	3.4	0.0	0.0
205-209	3.4	0.0	0.0
210-214	3.4	0.0	0.0
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235-239	3.4	0.0	0.0
240-244	3.4	0.0	0.0
245-249	3.4	0.0	0.0
250-254	3.4	0.0	0.0
255-259	3.4	0.0	0.0
260-264	3.4	0.0	0.0
265-269	3.4	0.0	0.0
270-274	3.4	0.0	0.0
275-279	3.4	0.0	0.0
280-284	3.4	0.0	0.0
285-289	3.4	0.0	0.0
290-294	3.4	0.0	0.0
295-299	3.4	0.0	0.0
300-304	3.4	0.0	0.0
305-309	3.4	0.0	0.0
310-314	3.4	0.0	0.0
315-319	3.4	0.0	0.0
320-324	3.4	0.0	0.0
325-329	3.4	0.0	0.0
330-334	3.4	0.0	0.0
335-339	3.4	0.0	0.0
340-344	3.4	0.0	0.0
345-349	3.4	0.0	0.0
350-354	3.4	0.0	0.0
355-359	3.4	0.0	0.0
360-364	3.4	0.0	0.0
365-369	3.4	0.0	0.0
370-374	3.4	0.0	0.0
375-379	3.4	0.0	0.0
380-384	3.4	0.0	0.0
385-389	3.4	0.0	0.0
390-394	3.4	0.0	0.0
395-399	3.4	0.0	0.0
400-404	3.4	0.0	0.0
405-409	3.4	0.0	0.0
410-414	3.4	0.0	0.0
415-419	3.4	0.0	0.0
420-424	3.4	0.0	0.0
425-429	3.4	0.0	0.0
430-434	3.4	0.0	0.0
435-439	3.4	0.0	0.0
440-444	3.4	0.0	0.0
445-449	3.4	0.0	0.0
450-454	3.4	0.0	0.0
455-459	3.4	0.0	0.0
460-464	3.4	0.0</	

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Age group	Percentage of respondents
18-29	85
30-49	75
50-69	80
70+	55

Profit up at GKN, but talks drag on

THE LONG-AWAITED restructuring of the European defence industry will have to wait a little longer.

The defence group GKN is still in talks with Agusta Helicopters of Italy to create the second-largest helicopter group in the world. Chief executive CK Chow is confident that there will be an agreement by the beginning of next year.

"We have not negotiated the alliance yet, but we have strong common agreement on a number of issues," he said.

When the deal is done GKN, which has recently signed a deal with its partners ARGE of Germany and Giat Industries of France to make battlefield "taxis" for European armies, will become a significant player in Europe.

"It is inevitable that the defence industry will be radically changed over the next few years. And we will be in a very powerful position to take an active role in the industry," said Mr Chow, who was speaking yesterday as GKN pleased the City with a sparkling set of interim results.

The slowdown and the strong pound which has so rav-

aged the manufacturing sector have had a minimal impact on GKN.

Mr Chow is keen to point out that GKN is a global engineering group and is not as exposed as many UK engineering companies which are at the mercy of the strong pound.

Even the Asian crisis has not made a dent on the group's profits. Its exposure to the Asian market is small, and it is taking advantage of the turmoil to strengthen its presence there - GKN has now bought 100 per cent of its Automotive Driveline businesses in Korea and Thailand.

The helicopter-to-tanks group, which also earns significant money in waste management, announced a 13 per cent rise in profits to £230m in the six months to 30 June.

Shares fell by just 23p to 748p on a day of sharp falls in the market overall. GKN's balance sheet is strong, with cash reserves of £261m.

The company is capable of launching a £1bn bid, but there will not be one on that scale this year: growth is more likely to be

organic, with takeovers in the region of £50m to £100m, said Mr Chow.

Despite the problems at Rover and a two-month strike at General Motors, the company's largest customer in the US, the automotive and agrotechnical division was the star performer. The GM strike is likely to have cost GKN around \$600,000 in sales, but a good performance in Mexico will more than compensate.

Profits jumped by £27m to £133m on sales up 11.5 per cent to £1.1bn. Sales and profits fell in the Aerospace and Special Vehicles division, but this was due to the completion last year of a contract for Desert Warrior armoured vehicles for Kuwait.

In the long term, the winning of the MRV (multi-role armoured vehicle) contract for the British, German and French governments is far more significant. So far 600 orders for these "battlefield taxis" have been received, but GKN believes there is a market for 7,000 vehicles.

The group's other strong performer was its industrial services division, which saw sales up 22.6 per cent to £255m.



Tesco will sell Manchester United and Liverpool shirts at £33, a cut of £12 from the standard high street price

Tesco back with cut-price soccer strips

TESCO IS to cut the price of top Premiership football team kits from today in its latest challenge to higher-priced goods.

The supermarket has secured £1m worth of new Manchester United and Liverpool home strips and will sell the shirts at £33 compared to standard high street price of £45. It

said the goods had been sourced within the EU after a recent court ruling barring the import of goods from the grey market, outside Europe. The kits will be sold in 130 stores.

Tesco's commercial director, John Gildersleeve, said the group had decided to attack the replica football market again

after the success of its England and Scotland World Cup shirt deals. "However, he said, the company had been denied supply from the brand owners "so the European grey market has again been our only source".

Meanwhile, Asda is understood to be planning a fresh assault on the designer goods

market from its Wakefield store. The group's targets have so far included sunglasses, cosmetics and clothing.

The major supermarkets are themselves the subject of a competition investigation into their dominance after the Office of Fair Trading launched an inquiry last week.

Lucas brakes plant in Wales to be sold

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MORE THAN 900 Welsh workers were waiting to discover their fate yesterday after LucasVairty, the car parts maker, announced plans to sell its heavy vehicle braking systems division.

Lucas said it was too early to comment on the future of its staff in Cwmbran, South Wales, where the division's only UK plant is sited.

The Anglo-American group added that it hoped to find a buyer by the end of the year after receiving a number of "strong expressions of interest" for the heavy vehicle brakes division.

Analysts said that the division could attract a price of up to £110m, which amounts to around two-thirds of last year's turnover of £170m.

The unit manufactures brakes for buses and trucks, and has its headquarters in Ohio in the United States. It has suffered from increased competition and it is seen as peripheral to Lucas's automotive business, which derives a large share of its sales and profits from light vehicle brakes.

Victor Rice, the group chief executive, said: "We have concluded that the division cannot alone sustain a leadership position in a sector that is undergoing rapid consolidation."

The disposal is part of a major restructuring of Lucas's automotive business, which is one of its two core operations alongside its aerospace engineering activities.

The company is to create a single division, LucasVairty Automotive, which will bring together its light vehicle braking, after-market operations, diesel systems and electrical and electronic activities.

The overhaul is aimed at cutting costs and improving efficiency in a business sector which is experiencing greater competition.

The market welcomed the news, and LucasVairty shares rose 4p to 217.5p against the trend of a sharp market fall.

Irish baker buys Paramount

GREENCORE, the Irish bakery and sugar group, yesterday unveiled plans to swallow Paramount Foods, the maker of pizza crusts and toppings, in a deal worth £28.3m.

The cash offer, which is pitched at 150p a share, trumps an earlier indicative bid for Paramount from its management, who had been preparing to offer around 135p a share.

Paramount shares jumped 25.5p to 145.5p as Greencore revealed it has irrevocable acceptance from shareholders representing 53.1 per cent of Paramount's share capital. It is

thought that the Kent family, who founded the group, are among the shareholders accepting the bid.

The price represents a multiple of 13.5 times Paramount's earnings per share for the year to December 1997. Kevin O'Sullivan, Greencore's finance director, said he expected Paramount's existing management to stay on and develop the business. He added that the pizza market was expanding at about 10 per cent a year.

Paramount, which changed its name from Canadian Pizza last year, sells pizza crusts and toppings to supermarkets and health food shops. It also makes sauces, dips and marinades.

Greencore said Paramount was an ideal bolt-on for its existing businesses. Greencore's Kears subsidiary is one of the largest baking groups in the UK.

It added that Paramount's sauces and dips business could be integrated with Greencore's Erin subsidiary, which makes soups and sauces in Ireland.

Record AIB profit will help fend off predators

By LEA PATERSON

THE BUOYANT Irish economy helped Allied Irish Banks (AIB) achieve record first-half profits, and the bank said it was optimistic on prospects for the second half of the year.

Pre-tax profits at AIB rose 66 per cent to IR£401.3m (£246m) in the six months to June. Tom Mulcahy, AIB group chief executive, said: "The first half of 1998 has seen another period of exceptional business performance at AIB. Our participation in supporting economic growth in all our markets makes us confident that we will substantially grow our business base into the medium term."

Although the figures were ahead of brokers' expectations, the shares lost 1p in London to close at 935.5p. Dealers said the share price fall should be seen against a backdrop of volatile stock market conditions.

Gary Kennedy, the group finance director, admitted that the group could be seen as a takeover target for the larger banks, but said he hoped that AIB's strong growth would help it keep its independence. He said: "It's naive to think we're not on someone's list, although we would prefer to retain our identity."

Mr Kennedy said that continued success at the bank should act as a defence against unwanted bid approaches.

The bank has made no secret of its intention to expand its businesses outside the Republic of Ireland. Mr Kennedy said, although it had yet to find a suitable acquisition in the UK. The finance director said AIB would like to boost its retail banking operations in the UK, but was less convinced of the value of a UK building society to the group.

AIB increased the interim dividend by 19 per cent to IR£1.1p per share.

Oxford Molecular slides on interim loss

SHARES IN Oxford Molecular crashed to their lowest level in almost three years yesterday after the supplier of information technology systems to pharmaceutical companies reported poor interim results.

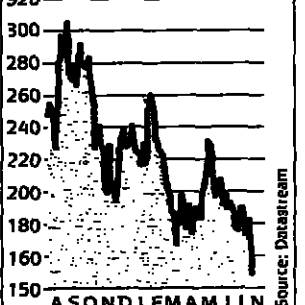
The group doubled its pre-tax loss to £2.2m in the first six months of the year. Revenue was also disappointing, rising 25 per cent to £7.7m. The company's own target was a 30 per cent increase.

Oxford Molecular shares slumped 16 per cent to close at 154p. They have lost more than 65 per cent of their value since they hit 450p in February. The company floated in 1994 at 80p.

Tony Marchington, the chief executive and founder, blamed the performance on the decision by a large US drug company to delay the signing of a \$4.5m (£2.8m) contract. He said

the unnamed customer's desire to upgrade a previous \$1.5m contract had stalled completion until the second half.

However, he said Oxford Molecular would recover in the second half, boosted by the de-



layed contract and a large number of smaller deals with large pharmaceutical customers. "Our order book is extremely strong, stronger than it's ever been," said Mr Marchington.

The company was set to sign "three or four contracts of at least \$1m and dozens for around \$500,000," he said. This would enable the company to meet analysts' forecasts of £1.5m profit at year-end.

The chief executive complained that the market's reaction overlooked the seasonal nature of the business. "We have two-thirds of the business in the second half," he said, because of the spending patterns of customer companies. Mr Marchington said the company would prosper in coming years as the market for pharmaceutical IT was "on the verge of an explosion".

US fire hits key Shire drugs

SHARES IN Shire Pharmaceuticals crashed 18 per cent yesterday as the biotechnology group warned that an explosion at a US manufacturing plant had halted production of two of its key drugs, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The explosion occurred on Monday night at Arenol, the US manufacturer which is the sole supplier of the active ingredients in Alderall and Dextro-Stat. Shire's products for treating attention deficit hyper-

activity disorder in the US. Shire shares plunged 86p to 393.5p as the company said it had enough supply of the products in stock to meet demand for the next three to four months.

However, the company also warned it was "unlikely" that it would be able to find another source for the ingredients before the current stock ran out.

"This will have an adverse effect on Shire's financial position," the company said, though

it added that it could not quantify the potential damage.

In the six months to last June, the two products accounted for 63 per cent of Shire's revenues.

Rolf Stahl, Shire's chief executive, said: "We are very concerned about this unfortunate accident and will do everything reasonably possible to avoid stock-outs and to minimise inconvenience to patients." The company is seeking an alternative manufacturing facility.

COMPANY RESULTS						
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Allied Irish Banks (I)	1,832m (1,884m)	30.5p (22.2p)	8.1p (6.5p)	8.1p (6.5p)	25.09.98	14.09.98
Calderbank Group (I)	27.8m (27.2m)	37.0m (35.5m)	17.7p (17.1p)	8.8p (8.5p)	20.11.98	
Celtic (I)	1.3m (1.3m)	7.13m (5.15m)	22.8p (15.3p)	- (-)		
Country General (I)	31.55m (27.78m)	4.16m (3.26m)	10.4p (13.7p)	0.7p (-)	01.10.98	07.09.98
Diagonal (I)	1.8m (1.8m)	3.65m (1.07m)	10.3p (8.2p)	1.4p (0.9p)	02.10.98	17.06.98
Diagonal (I)	1.8m (1.8m)	23m (20m)	5.75p (5.25p)	5.75p (5.25p)	01.10.98	17.06.98
DKI plc (I)	161.28m (196.4m)	21.25m (24.65m)	0.85p (11.82p)	0.25p (0.3p)		
Imperial Group (I)	381m (441m)	66.8m (38.7m)	24.3p (10.5p)	9.25p (0.3p)	11.11.98	17.06.98
Lloyds (I)	2.7m (2.8m)	-0.85p (-1.01m)	-1.85p (-6.73p)	- (-)		
Metrolife (I)	7.74m (8.17m)	-2.18p (-0.67m)	-3.1p (-7.1p)	- (-)		
Oxford Molecular (I)	416m (450m)	25.9p (28.6p)	8.25p (5.25p)	- (-)		
Standard Chartered (I)	0.546m (0.515m)	0.46m (0.45m)	21.52p (20.09p)	9.5p (8.5p)	23.10.98	28.09.98
Shire (I)	282.44m (254.78m)	1.282m (15.088m)	-6.54p (7.73p)	4.75p (4.1p)	01.10.98	01.09.98
Thames Valley (I)	- (-)	240.4m (214.5m)	1.0p (7.1p)	3.5p (3.0p)	12.10.98	24.08.98
Woolwich (I)	- (-)	-	-	-	-	-

(I) - Irish (I) - Irish (I) - Irish (I) - Irish (I) - Irish (I) - Irish (I)

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Footsie falls but there's no panic

EQUITIES ENDED a difficult session battered and bruised but unbowed. Footsie crashed 103.6 points to 5,532.5; at one time it was off 164.7. It was a predictable response to New York's overnight slump. Market-makers, often woefully short of stock, had plenty of time to adjust their positions and were happy to call the stock market lower as soon as trading got under way at the more refined time of 9.0am.

However, there was no evidence of panicky selling, indeed selling was relatively light, with bargain-hunters helping to absorb much of the pressure.

Still, Footsie has had a ragged time since hitting a peak of 6,179 last month. It is now at its lowest since February. The dramatic change in sentiment reflects the deepening impact of the Clinton crisis, growing worries about the Far East and the sudden evaporation of domestic confidence.

Few expect the nine wise souls on the Monetary Policy Committee to increase interest rates today. But the nagging uncertainty that they might decide to confound the nation is adding to the market's unease.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

The MPC, with its narrow inflation brief, has never rested easily with the market, which has witnessed the strong pound devastate currency-sensitive shares. Consequently it remains suspicious of the MPC's deliberations and decisions.

Second and third-line shares, which largely missed Tuesday's slide, this time took the full force of the battering. The mid cap index crashed 123.4 to 5,521.5, lowest for three months. The small cap index lost 42.1 to 2,415.2.

Cadbury Schweppes, following results, resisted the slump, recording

a 27p gain to 864p, against a 99sp peak hit in June. BG, the old British Gas, was another to buck the trend. More upbeat stockbroker forecasts lifted the shares a further 9.5p to 380p.

Rank, the hard-pressed leisure group, was another to hang in there with a 7.5p advance to 316.5p.

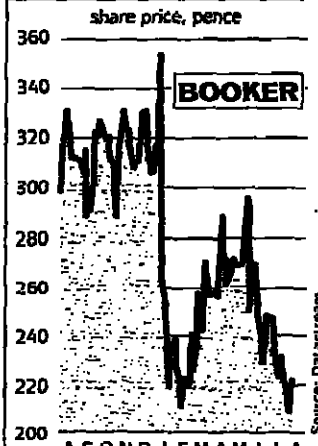
Companies with significant American exposure suffered cruelly in the decline. Amvescap, the US investment fund, fell a further 40p to 608p. British Petroleum lost 31p to 781p and Cable & Wireless 30p to 730p.

Misys, the first computer group to crash its way into Footsie, fell 96p to 2,780p with HSBC making negative noises. The shares were 3,696p in May.

Booker, the struggling cash and carry group which has suffered a catalogue of disasters in recent times, enjoyed a heady run. Stories that the German Metro chain may bid seemed to be responsible. A Metro denial failed to eliminate the speculation and the shares ended 13p higher at 220.5p after hitting 227.5p.

The cash and carry group has slumped from 479p four years ago. A surprise profit warning devastated the shares earlier this year.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



In the hovering air of gloom, takeover action continued. Springwood, the leisure group run by Adam Page, said it was in merger talks with Waterfall, a snooker to bowling operation little changed at 88.5p, and promptly fell 14.5p to 124p. Paramount, the old Canadian Pizza, rose 25.5p to 145p after agreeing a £28.3m offer from Greencore, the Irish group. Greencore al-

ready has 53 per cent of Paramount which came to the market at 200p five years ago. The bid is 150p a share.

Tadpole Technologies was another in the takeover arena. It was suspended at 18p after saying it was involved in talks which could lead to a "significant acquisition". Trading was halted at 18p, off 0.25p. The shares nudged 400p three years ago.

Meanwhile the Laporte offer for Inspect duly appeared at 340p. Inspect formed just 1p to 333.5p. Laporte lost 15.5p to 640.5p.

Shire Pharmaceuticals had problems of its own, in addition to the sluggish market, to handle. The shares collapsed 86p to 383.5p after it reported a fire at a US plant had hit the supply of its hyperactive disorder treatment in the US. The shares have been strong in the past few weeks. Hopes for the group's Alzheimer's treatment lifted the shares to a 540.4p peak last month.

Phytopharm rose 15.5p to 96p. It was encouraged by stories that it is near to clinching a licensing deal for its eczema treatment. The

company is developing drugs from plants. It is also working on treatments for baldness and osteoarthritis. Oxford Molecular, reporting increased interim losses, fell 28.5p to 154p.

Tepnel Life Sciences lost 3.5p to 19p. It appears to be blaming its soggy share performance, down from 82.5p in the past year, on a change of management at one of its institutional investors. A new fund manager, it seems, is not at all impressed by the merits of second-line biotech shares and is unloading his fund's interest in Tepnel and, presumably other similar companies.

MetalTech International, an engineer, fell 3.25p to 6.25p after delivering a profits warning.

Radstone Technology, an electronics group, put on 5.5p to 52p. The market was encouraged by £5.5m of avionics orders. Its order book for computer subsystems for the defence industry now stands at more than £20m. The shares were 122p three years ago.

AIRTEL ATN, the latest Ofex newcomer, shrugged off the gloom, hitting 27.5p against a 20p placing. It is the new offering from Ruegg & Co, taking the corporate advisers' list of Ofex floatations to nine. Airtel raised £1.8m. It develops software packages for air traffic control and aeronautical communications systems. Ruegg has the distinction of launching Ofex's star performer, Robotic Technology Systems. Nov 232.5p, against a 30p placing, the company is valued at £89m. It is expected soon to graduate from Ofex, either to AIM or perhaps Easdaq.

A harsh verdict on GKN's success story

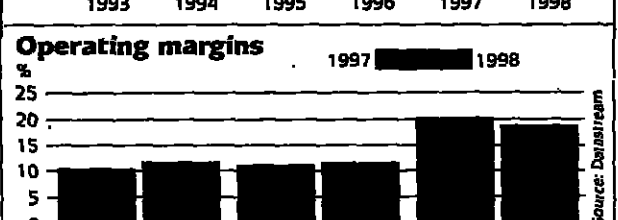
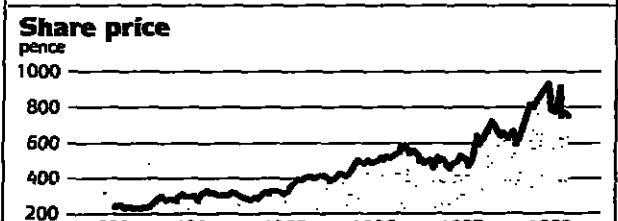
INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

GKN: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £5.32bn, share price 748p (+23p)

	Full year to Dec 31		Half year to Jun 30		
Trading record	1995	1996	1997	1998	
Turnover (£m)	2,89	2,87	2,83	1,66	1,60
Pre-tax profits (£m)	322.00	93.00	406.00	203.00	230.00
Earnings per share (p)	26.50	6.00	39.20	19.50	22.40
Dividends per share (p)	12.00	13.30	14.80	5.25	5.75



THE CLOUD of gloom hanging over the engineering sector at the moment is such that, when a company does produce a decent set of figures, investors only wonder how long it can last.

Take GKN. Despite producing an excellent set of interim results yesterday, the automotive and defence engineer watched the market pull its already heavily discounted shares down another 23p to 748p.

This may seem harsh. After all, profits in the automotive division soared by £27m to £133m, making the unit GKN's star performer, at a time when manufacturing elsewhere is feeling the recession.

But by its very nature the car business is a cyclical one and with the sharp downturn in the Far East, the cycle looks to be swinging down.

Chief executive CK Chow is aware of this - hence his prediction that business in this sector in the second half will be flat.

So where will a sharp economic downturn leave GKN? Probably in much better shape than most other companies in the engineering sector.

Solid orders in defence for helicopters and the Multi Role Armoured Vehicle - the so-called "battlefield taxi" - protect the group from cyclical demand. And GKN's alliance with Agusta Helicopters in Italy looks set to result in the creation of Europe's largest helicopter company, capable of competing effectively with the Americans.

And the rapidly growing industrial services sector, which concentrates on the Chep pallet business, is growing quickly in Europe and the US.

GKN is cash-rich and has more than £1bn to spend. Mr Chow does not disguise his plans to buy growth through a series of £100m deals.

One set of good results from GKN will not change the market's sentiment. But if you want exposure to the engineering sector then GKN is one of the best prospects around.

Cadbury shows its power

JUDGING BY the length of Cadbury Schweppes' presentations to the City, the confectionery and soft drinks group sometimes seems to be trying to bore its audience into submission. But though a 90 minute session may test the stamina, there is no arguing with the fact that Cadbury is proving to be a powerful performer under chief executive John Sunderland.

The shares have risen by more than 40 per cent in the last year - outperforming the market by 25 per cent. They added a further 27p to 854p yesterday on the back of an 8 per cent rise in underlying first-half profits to £254m despite a currency hit.

The City likes Mr Sunderland's "Managing for Value" initiative which commits the company to growing earnings by 10 per cent-plus a year, gener-

ating £15m of free cash flow and doubling shareholder value over five years. Managers are being made more accountable as the business moves to a more performance-based culture.

The next step is to kick some of its US bottlers into line. Telling figures produced yesterday showed that though Cadbury's drinks brands have done well when distributed through the Coke system or through its American Bottling Company operation, formed earlier this year, they have underperformed badly in the independent sector.

Cadbury is now starting to get tough on the laggards and is introducing a more performance-based fee system. More acquisitions are likely in this sector as the market consolidates.

In sales terms Dr Pepper did well, increasing sales by 6 per cent in the first half, though Seven-Up continued to lose share to Coca-Cola's Sprite. The main worry is if Pepsi de-

cides to roll out its Storm brand, which is currently on trial.

On ABN Amro's full-year forecasts of £825m, the shares traded on a forward rating of 21. For a company expecting double-digit earnings growth that looks good value.

Standard gets Asian jitters

THE TROUBLE with being an emerging markets bank is that when the markets submerge investors get wet. This is precisely the problem facing Standard Chartered, which derives more than half its net revenue from the Asia-Pacific region, and whose shares have underperformed the market by 35 per cent since September.

Given Standard's exposure to Asia, yesterday's interim results weren't bad. At current exchange rates, profits before tax and after provisions were down 4 per cent to £416m in the six months to June. At constant rates, profits were up 8 per cent. But the figures were flattened by the treasury operations, which tend to do well when currencies are volatile. After stripping out treasury, pre-tax trading profits fell from £338m to £211m.

Standard set aside £139m to cover specific debt provisions, and added £50m to its general debt provision. Some analysts grumbled that the bank's provisioning was too optimistic, but its provisioning to date has been pretty much spot-on.

The real issue is that Standard lacks both the diversified portfolio and the balance-sheet strength of HSBC, its London-listed peer. So despite Standard's expertise in the region, and despite long-standing customer relationships, its fortunes are inextricably linked to those of the struggling Asian economies.

The shares closed yesterday at 600p, down 20p in a gloomy London market. Forecasts put the shares on a forward p/e ratio of 10 for the full year 1998. Given the current bout of Asian jitters, the discount to the sector is probably justified.

IN BRIEF

Strong art sales boost Sotheby's

SOTHEBY'S, the auction house, has recorded a jump in first-half profits from £22m to £37.3m (£17.3m) helped by a series of high-profile sales. Highlights included Monet's "Water lily pond and path by the water", which sold in London for £18.8m, and Andy Warhol's "Orange Marilyn", which fetched £10.8m in New York. The company said the second half of 1998 had started well with strong sales of contemporary art and Old Master paintings.

Whitbread sale

WHITBREAD, the hotel and leisure group, yesterday said it had sold 253 smaller pubs to Aveybury Taverns for £42.5m in a bid to focus on its larger pubs.

The company sold the leased pubs, part of its Pub Partnerships division, to focus on those operating under its Whitbread Inns division, which are newer and offer better facilities, said spokesman David Reed.

Mr Reed said the restaurant and hotel company planned to hold on to the remaining 1,700 pubs operating under Pub Partnerships. Whitbread makes money from renting the pubs and on the beer sold. The company owns and manages another 1,700 pubs within Whitbread Inns.

The company said the price paid for the pubs was ahead of their book value, but did not specify what that was. Whitbread shares fell 12p to 860p as the benchmark FTSE 100 index fell 1.8 per cent.

Rainy day gains

COUNTRY GARDENS' results for the half-year to 30 June were affected by the worst period of weather for 15 years, said chief executive Nicholas Marshall.

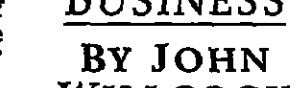
In spite of the adverse weather, the garden centres operator reported a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.1m on a 14 per cent increase in turnover, with like-for-like sales up 9.6 per cent.

The board proposed an interim dividend of 0.7p per share, an increase of 17 per cent on last year.

We wouldn't call the spin doctor

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



OVER A THIRD of British finance directors think the appointment of Peter Mandelson as head of the Department of Trade and Industry will "not be good news for UK business," while nearly half are neutral.

Only a piddling 21 per cent give Mandy the thumbs-up, according to a Reed Accountancy Personnel survey for *Accountancy Age* published today.

Those who were less than impressed with Mr Mandelson's promotion pointed to his lack of relevant experience and his image as the High Priest of Spin.

One FD commented: "We need someone with a track record respected by captains of industry, instead of this controversial figure," while another asked: "How can someone who has been a 'professional' politician all his life have any concept of what is good for UK business?"

I had no idea Mr Mandelson had been a politician "all his life". It must have made his school days interesting. Anyway, more favourable FDs say that the selection of such a high-profile figure should improve business's standing, and Mr Mandelson's links with Europe should prove useful as economic union proceeds.

Incidentally, it is interesting to see that Mr Mandelson has ditched the "President" title revived by Michael Heseltine when he was at the DTI. Margaret Beckett muddled on with President but Mr Mandelson will merely be "head".

ANGLOGOLD, the world's largest gold mining company, paraded a 500-pound, eight-foot-long male lion named Arthur at the New York Stock Exchange yesterday to celebrate the company's listing on the Big Board.

Sadly Arthur went home hungry, at least as far as broke meat goes. The lion strolled along the balcony overlooking the trading floor as Richard Grasso, NYSE chairman, and Robert M Godsell, AngloGold chief executive, rang the opening bell.

Mr Grasso did, however, feed

the ferocious beast - with a big baby's bottle. Somewhat spoiling the effect, I would have thought.

A spokeswoman at AngloGold admitted that they did have concerns that the bell might startle Arthur, causing him to leap into the trading pits, but happily he took it in his stride.

AngloGold is the first South African company to list on the NYSE. The company was formed two months ago by Anglo American holding a series of gold ventures into a single body, to cut costs.

AngloGold's rented lion, which starred in the Jim Carey

film *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, was the latest stunt using the 206-year-old exchange as a backdrop. The promotional events have become increasingly common in recent years as the NYSE competes with rival Nasdaq to lure new companies.

Gap, the clothes retailer, blocked up surrounding streets to set up a huge television; a chocolate-bar-shaped "Kissmobile" delivered Hershey's Kisses on Wall Street; while Arianna the cow ushered in the listing of Gateway 2000, the South Dakota computer company.

When Bestfoods changed its name from CPC International the company employed live bulls and people dressed as jars of Heilman's mayonnaise and Skippy peanut butter to run around the block.

On Tuesday German software maker SAP turned a neighbouring street into a beach party, importing 60 tons of sand, 5,000 beach balls and six bands - including the 1970s classic Kool & the Gang.

Not doubt all this fun will ease the pain as the bull market begins to bite.

RUGBY LANG is retiring as the head of Brammer, the Cheshire-based supplier of industrial components, having reached his 65th birthday. Mr Lang is being replaced as chairman, after eight years in the post, by Robert Penkales Jones, 58, who has been chief executive for the past 10 years.

Brammer is bringing in Ian Fraser, 43, from Reliance Security Group to be the new chief executive.

The company is based in Altrincham and has two main businesses, supplying industrial components, often at short notice to manufacturers who have suffered breakdowns, and hiring out hi-tech systems such as computers. It has so far avoided expansion into the US or Asia, opting instead to become a pan-European player.

Mr Lang will carry on with his other chairmanships, at Manchester Bronze Holdings, the taxi-makers, and Albion, a Scottish management buy-in.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	1.0000			0.6126	0.6147	0.6152
Australia	2.6895	2.6893	2.6774	1.8447	1.8451	1.8453
Canada	20.382	20.34	20.34	12.465	12.462	12.455
France	6.5577	6.5573	6.5573	36.325	36.325	36.325
Germany	16.717	16.717	16.717	1.5155	1.5145	1.5145
Italy	11.307	11.307	11.307	6.7409	6.7233	6.7233
Japan	163.26	163.26	163.26	1.1126	1.1126	1.1126
Netherlands	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	3.9745	3.9745	3.9745
Spain	166.36	166.36	166.36	1.7684	1.7684	1.7684
Sweden	10.4603	10.4603	10.4603	2.9573	2.9573	2.9573
Switzerland	1.4756	1.4756	1.4756	1.6534	1.6534	1.6534
US	1.6352			1.1272	1.1272	1.1272

INTEREST RATES

Rate	US	UK	Germany	France	Japan	Canada
3 month	7.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
6 month	7.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
1 year	7.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
2 year	7.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
3 year	7.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
5 year	7.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
10 year	7.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Floor	Open Interest
3 Mth Euro	Sep-98	109.38	109.72	109.38	55365.00
3 Mth Euro	Sep-98	109.38	109.72	109.38	55365.00
3 Mth Euro	Sep-98	109.38	109.72	109.38	55365.00
3 Mth Euro	Sep-98	109.38	109.72	109.38	55365.00
3 Mth Euro	Sep-98	109.38	109.72	109.38	55365.00

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME (\$/tonne)	Cash	3 months	6 months	12 months	Chg
Aluminium	1305.5	1306.5	1306.5	1306.5	0.00
Aluminium Alloy	1145.5	1145.5	1145.5	1145.5	0.00
Copper	1659	1641	1641	1641	-18.00
Lead	555.5	556.5	556.5	556.5	1.00
Nickel	4120	4125	4125	4125	5.00
Tin	5655	5665	5665	5665	10.00
Zinc	1060.5	1062.5	1062.5	1062.5	2.00

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6352	1.0000	Poland	67.384	49.770
Brazil	1.9084	1.1577	Philippines	68.678	42.000
China	13.348	30.790	Russia	101.814	62.490
Czech Rep	5.5669	3.4046	South Korea	56.179	34.356
Egypt	3801.8	215.56	Thailand	66.790	40.845
India	25.447	12.650	Turkey	44.303	27.100
Indonesia	21012.3	0.3067	UAE	6.0057	3.6728
Israel	1.6352	1.0000			

MONEY MARKET RATES

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Overnight	7.40	7.30	7.45	7.35	7.45
1 week	7.40	7.30	7.45	7.35	7.45
1 month	7.40	7.30	7.45	7.35	7.45
3 months	7.40	7.30	7.45	7.35	7.45
6 months	7.40	7.30	7.45	7.35	7.45
1 year	7.40	7.30	7.45	7.35	7.45

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES

Index	1970=100	1980=100	1990=100	1997=100	1998=100
Oil	142.94	1.12	0.79	215.26	-33.60
Gold	183.99	-0.28	-0.15	231.23	-20.43
Silver	183.99	-0.28	-0.15	231.23	-20.43
Platinum	183.99	-0.28	-0.15	231.23	-20.43
Palladium	183.99	-0.28	-0.15	231.23	-20.43

OTHER SPOTS AT 3.30PM

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Live Cattle	106.57	White Maize	61.97	Soybean Meal	195.00
Orange Juice	62.60	Barley	107.70	Wheat	101.40
Crude Oil	107.70	Cotton	107.70	Crude Oil	107.70
Crude Oil	107.70	Crude Oil	107.70	Crude Oil	107.70
Crude Oil	107.70	Crude Oil	107.70	Crude Oil	107.70

SPORT

The death of loyalty and respect in football

THIRTY-EIGHT years ago this week George Eastham reaffirmed a decision that helped transform working conditions in English football. "No matter what they say, no matter what they do, I've played my last match for Newcastle," I remember him saying at the home of a friend in Surrey.

Eastham's case, brilliantly exploited by the Professional Footballers' Association's legal adviser, George Davis, led to the removal of the maximum wage and freedom from an iniquitous retain and transfer system that was described in court as a relic of the Middle Ages.

Something for today's heroes to think about is that the cause from which many now draw great bene-

fit was supported by sportswriters of the day. And few of us paid much account to the Football League's fear that to allow players to have too great a say in how much they should be paid and for whom they should work would open professional football to anarchy.

What one has to concede now is that there was as much substance as prejudice in a warning issued all those years ago by the League's splendid secretary, Alan Hardaker. "The more power players get the more trouble there will be for the game," he said.

No mere reactionary, Hardaker saw dangers in wage escalation, the influence of television, agents and sponsorship.

The anarchy Hardaker feared



KEN JONES

has been highlighted this week by Pierre van Hooijdonk's announcement that he would not be returning to honour his contract with Nottingham Forest because he

claims that the club's board lacks sufficient ambition to keep him interested.

Sadly, this is nothing new and, of course, there is no comparison between Eastham's case against Newcastle in 1960 and Hooijdonk's outrageous rejection of Forest and their supporters.

From time to time, I speak with Eastham who is retired at 62 and living in Cape Town. Recently, I put it to him that football now suffers from the results of his action.

In truth, he did not have a cause in mind when standing out against Newcastle but went along with the moral justification. "It was impossible for any of us to know what the future held," he said, "but I blame the clubs more than the players for

what has happened in football. It's the clubs who agree to ridiculous salaries out of all proportion to ability, the clubs who have failed to fix some sort of a ceiling on wages, the clubs who give in to the demands of agents. Change had to come, and now you have that Bosman ruling, but the change hasn't been well managed."

Nevertheless, sympathy is held out here for Forest's manager, Dave Bassett, who admitted this week that he will probably find it impossible to prevent Hooijdonk from moving. "I don't feel particularly let down," he said in an interview given to Midlands football writers. "I might have been a few years ago but nothing really surprises me now. I just think that football is a

completely greedy game. Unfortunately, I don't see things getting any better, just worse."

Wage restrictions in English football (a £20 weekly maximum with meagre bonuses of £2 per a win and £1 a draw until the PFA voted to strike in 1961) forced players abroad but for signing-on fees and bonuses not guaranteed salaries. John Charles received £10,000 when joining Juventus from Leeds in 1958, but received £2 less in his weekly wage packet than at Elland Road. "We had to earn the big money," he said. "It was all in bonuses."

Ajax find themselves in a similar situation to Forest over the De Boer brothers - Ronald and Frank - who are refusing to take part in pre-season training despite being

ordered in court to honour their contracts.

Going back to the event that provoked all this meditation, it seems very unlikely that Eastham and his advisers knew what they were letting the game in for. Not, I imagine, for the attitude that sees loyalty as a weakness.

The bond between footballers and the communities in which they work grows ever weaker. It is the age of the mercenary, here today and gone tomorrow.

Honesty, loyalty, respect for the fans. What do most big-time players today know of things that ran strong in so many of the 100 who were named this week as the legends of the English Football League?



England players celebrate in the dressing-room after the success in Melbourne on Boxing Day 1986 which enabled them to retain the Ashes. It remains their last victorious five-Test series

Adrian Murrell/Allsport

England must follow the class of '55

THE CONCEPT of England going into the final Test of a major series all-square seems something of a novelty nowadays. Those of a cynical disposition have come to believe that the only time England are level is before the first Test, but in fact it is just three years since Mike Atherton's side went to The Oval needing victory to defeat the West Indies in a six-Test series.

On that occasion a first innings total of 454, thanks mainly to Graeme Hick's 96 and Jack Russell's 91, put England in a healthy position but a bowling attack of Devon Malcolm, Angus Fraser and Dominic Cork, with support from Mike Watkinson, Jason Gallian and Elick, was powerless in the face of a West Indies onslaught spearheaded by Brian Lara.

He made an imperious 179 out of a total of 692, his third century in three consecutive Tests. Atherton himself, with 95 in England's second

If England can snatch the final Test and therefore steal the series they will be in illustrious company. By Adam Szreter

innings, ensured that the series finished drawn.

To find an instance of England winning the decisive Test in a five or six-match series, you have to go back a long way - 43 years, in fact, to 1955 when, by happy coincidence, South Africa were the visitors. Rather as England have done this summer, South Africa fought their way back into that rubber by winning the third and fourth Tests after losing the first two.

Jack Cheetham, the tourists' captain, missed the victories at Old Trafford and Headingley through injury and the side was led by the opener Jackie McGlew.

Cheetham was back for the final

Test at the Oval, but with hindsight he may wish he had left his trusty lieutenant in charge. More than 100,000 spectators watched a low-scoring game over four days that was won for England by three men playing on their home ground.

After England had secured a precious first-innings lead of 89 by bowling South Africa out for 112, their captain, Peter May then made 89, which was the highest score of the match in England's second innings, to set South Africa 244 to win.

But with the Surrey spinners, Jim Laker and Tony Lock, sharing nine wickets between them, the task proved beyond Cheetham's men and England won by 82 runs.

Over the next five days at Headingley England have the chance to win a major series for the first time since 1986-87 when Mike Gatting's team went to Australia and retained the Ashes.

Although David Gower, the captain when they had won them the year before, was no longer in charge, he was still an integral member of a side that went 1-0 up after the first Test in Brisbane thanks to Ian Botham's ferocious 138 in 174 balls, which included taking 22 off one over by Merv Hughes.

Gower, Gatting and Bill Athey chipped in with half-centuries and despite Geoff Marsh hitting a defiant century in his first Test against the old enemy, England still won by seven wickets.

In the Perth Test, England hit 592 for 8 declared, their second highest total in Australia, with centuries from Chris Broad, Gower and the wicketkeeper Jack Richards. But

Allan Border held his team together with a heroic 125, saving the follow-on with the last man at the crease and Australia escaped with a draw. Border and Broad swapped centuries again in another high-scoring draw at Adelaide before Australia's resistance was finally broken in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne.

Broad's third century in consecutive Tests laid the foundations for England's success after they had bowled Australia out for 141. Botham and Gladstone Small taking five wickets apiece. When the Australians folded for under 200 for a second time before the end of the third day, England had won by an innings and 14 runs.

Australia, of course, have been making England pay ever since, but perhaps the wheel of fortune has come full circle again. Victory against South Africa would be a step in the right direction if England are to regain the Ashes this winter.

DOWN TO THE WIRE

England's final-Test deciders in a five-match series since the war

1953

v Australia, The Oval, England win by 8 wickets to win series 1-0.

1955

v South Africa, The Oval, England win by 92 runs to win series 3-2.

1962-63

v Australia, Sydney, Match drawn, series drawn 1-1.

1963-64

v India, Kanpur, Match drawn, series drawn 0-0.

1965-66

v Australia, Melbourne, Match drawn, series drawn 1-1.

1990

v West Indies, Antigua, West Indies won by innings and 32 runs to win series 2-1.

1992

v Pakistan, The Oval, Pakistan win by 10 wickets to win series 2-1.

HEADINGLEY: THE LAST 10 TESTS

1997

Australia beat England by an innings and 61 runs
England 172 and 268, Australia 501-9 declared

1996

England drew with Pakistan
Pakistan 448 and 242-7 dec, England 501

1995

West Indies beat England by 9 wickets
England 199 and 209, West Indies 282 and 129-1

1994

England drew with South Africa
England 477-9 dec and 267-5 dec, South Africa 447 and 116-3

1993

Australia beat England by an innings and 148 runs
Australia 653-4 dec, England 200 and 305

1992

England beat Pakistan by 6 wickets
Pakistan 197 and 221, England 320 and 99-4

1991

England beat West Indies by 115 runs
England 198 and 252, West Indies 173 and 162

1989

Australia beat England by 210 runs
Australia 601-7 dec and 230-3 dec, England 430 and 191

1988

West Indies beat England by 10 wickets
England 201 and 138, West Indies 275 and 67-0

1987

Pakistan beat England by an innings and 18 runs
England 136 and 199, Pakistan 353.
(There was no test at Headingley in 1990)

1972

England completed a quick-fire nine-wicket victory over Australia by 5pm on the third day after the pitch became flooded by a freak storm several days before the match. Derek Underwood claimed 10 for 82 in the match and the Australians complained about possible sharp practice.

1975

Once again the Australians felt aggrieved after vandals wrecked the possibility of an exciting finish. By the close of the fourth day, they were 220 for 3 chasing 445 to win but the pitch was vandalised overnight by

supporters of the imprisoned George Davis and forced the match to be abandoned.

1981

Possibly the most famous Headingley Test of all. Trailing 1-0 and forced to follow on in the third Test, England's Ashes hopes seemed in ruins until Ian Botham played the Australian attack around the ground to score an unbeaten 149 and earn England a slender 130-run lead. Bob Willis wrapped up the 18-run victory by taking 8 for 43 to end their reply for 111.

1989

England's misreading of conditions, having taken note of a

poor weather forecast, persuaded them to put Australia in to bat and they progressed to 601 for 7 with Steve Waugh making an unbeaten 177. The tourists completed a 210-run victory en route to a 4-0 series triumph.

1991

Graham Gooch (pictured right) played what he regards as his finest Test innings, scoring 154 on an untrustworthy pitch against a hostile West Indian attack comprising Curtly Ambrose, Malcolm Marshall, Patrick Patterson and Courtney Walsh. His determination enabled England to claim a 115-run victory.



'Yo-yo' clubs fight the Twilight Zone



THIRD DIVISION						
Team	C	H	L	S	T	
Barnford	5-1	5-1	5-1	6-4	5-1	
Putnam	10-1	10-1	8-1	9-1	9-1	
Waymout	10-1	10-1	10-1	9-1	5-1	
Carlisle	10-1	5-1	12-1	11-1	10-1	
Lyons Oriskany	12-1	12-1	10-1	14-1	12-1	
Rochester	7-4	12-1	10-1	12-1	10-1	
Cattkill	16-1	12-1	14-1	16-1	16-1	
Watkins	18-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	14-1	
Schoharie	16-1	12-1	16-1	14-1	12-1	
Schoharie	12-1	13-1	10-1	16-1	13-1	
Warne	14-1	16-1	18-1	16-1	11-1	
Troy	18-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	10-1	
Cambridge	20-1	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	
Chenango	20-1	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1	
Carthage	16-1	25-1	22-1	20-1	20-1	
Richmond	18-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	
Brigance	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	20-1	
Northampton	25-1	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	
Hull	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	
Windsor	20-1	3-1	48-1	28-1	22-1	
Shirburn	20-1	25-1	46-1	25-1	22-1	
Harford	33-1	33-1	25-1	33-1	40-1	
Northdale	33-1	40-1	79-1	33-1	40-1	
Ames	33-1	33-1	90-1	33-1	28-1	

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 6 August 1998

Nilsson's search for Gleneagles clues

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL

SOMETHING of a rarity takes place for the first time in the history of the King's Course at Gleneagles - a women's European Tour event. While the men's European Tour in America are both on week 27, the McDonald's WPGA Championship is only the fifth tournament on the renamed European LPGA Tour.

It is not so much a tour as a collection of weekend away-breaks and discarding the

unlovely acronym of WPGET has yet to halt the decline in the tour's fortunes. American Express, the circuit's overall sponsor, left at the end of last year, while the chief executive, Terry Coates, followed in March. No replacement has been found and instead John Mort has taken over as managing director.

Mort's problem is to find a solution to the conundrum that flummoxed Coates, namely why the number of sponsors and tournaments has fallen in inverse proportion to the number of world-class European

players. Four currently find themselves in the top five of the world rankings, with the Swedes Annika Sorenstam, Liselotte Neumann and Helen Alfordsson and Britain's Laura Davies joined by the Australian Karrie Webb. Kelly Robbins is the leading American in sixth place.

In order to make a living, those and many others have had to play virtually full time in the States. To entice them back here the bigger tournaments have had to get bigger and better, but in the process the run-of-the-mill events for the

Tour's rank and file have disappeared.

In all, there are only nine ranking events this season, of which the next three are the most important. The WPGA, which carries a prize fund of £300,000, is followed next week by the Westlakes British Women's Open at Royal Lytham, with a record £100,000 to the winner, and then the Compaq Open in Sweden, after which the Solheim Cup captain, Pia Nilsson, names her team to face the Americans at Muirfield Village next month.

In contrast, though the

British Seniors Open at Royal Portrush this week may not have as big a purse as the £275,000 on offer at Lytham next week, the over-50s circuit has grown swiftly over recent years to reach 20 events this season even without the aid of Viagra.

An example of Mort's problems is that when the Solheim eligibility was dropped from six European events over the two years of the qualifying process to five, Sorenstam immediately pulled out of this event and will only play in the next two.

With Neumann unlikely to

quality and requiring a wild-card selection, Nilsson will be keen for Sorenstam to make the top seven who qualify automatically - Alfredsson, the defending champion here, Trish Johnson, Alison Nicholas and Davies should be certainties - but the world No1 dropped to ninth after last week's German Open.

Nicholas has been laid low by illness again and will not be able to play at Gleneagles. The 36-year-old US Women's Open champion and winner of the European Order of Merit, has suffered a recurrence of the chest

infection that kept her out of action for a month on the American tour earlier this year.

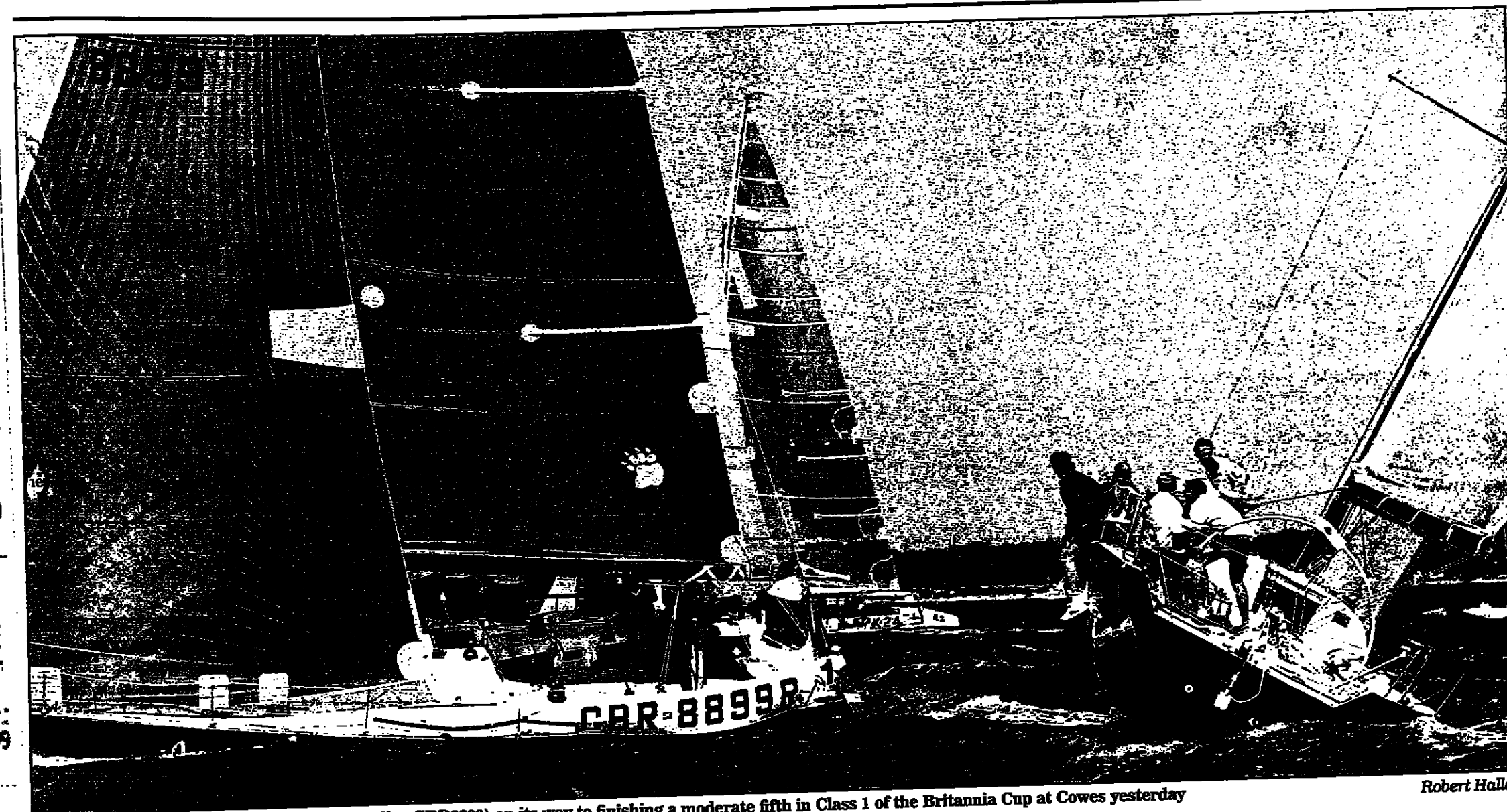
Nicholas, awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list in June, was unwell at the Chrysler Open in Sweden two weeks ago, yet still managed to finish fourth.

Lora Fairclough, who impressed in the 1994 Solheim match but just missed out on selection two years ago, won in Germany last week to move into the top seven.

Only days before Nilsson had indicated she will probably be looking to the States to fill

her five wild-card spots simply because players based solely over here, like Fairclough, had not been given the opportunity to play as much.

Helen Dobson, Catrin Nilsson and Charlotta Sorenstam, Annika's sister, come into that category as do three Scots returning to Gleneagles, Catriona Matthew, Janice Moodie, who would be leading the rookie of the year race on the LPGA Tour but for the phenomenal South Korean's Se Ri Pak, and Mhairi McKay, who contended at the US Women's Open last month.



Bear of very small gain: Independent Bear (alias GBR8899) on its way to finishing a moderate fifth in Class 1 of the Britannia Cup at Cowes yesterday

Robert Hallam

Squadron under fire for faulty radio fiasco

BY STUART ALEXANDER
in Cowes

THE ROYAL Yacht Squadron was under fire again yesterday. From the local council and hereditary campaigners, for replacing wooden sash windows with plastic alternatives and then failing to change them back. From Classes Two and Three in Skandia Cowes Week, for dithering over how to resolve the results following a change of course on Tuesday. And from countless hosts for using faulty equipment to radio instructions at the start of the Britannia Cup yesterday.

A general recall delayed the Britannia for 20 minutes, but was not enough to prevent a brilliant day's racing in a Solent with barely a cloud in sight and, for

most of the day, up to 15 knots of south-westerly to drive everyone along. An eclectic mix of contenders were in the frame at the end, third was Richard Matthews' 12m Crusader, while Victor 4 was runner-up for Tony de Mulder. On top of the podium was the new J90, J Lance 2, by just 15 seconds because of a two per cent time penalty for hitting West Lepe buoy.

Closely following them is the French yachtswoman and formidable competitor, Marie-Claude Heyes. And again in danger of being denied any silverware despite winning was Stephen Felt's Swan 48 Full Felt. In theory he won the Aish-Salver on Tuesday, but that was because he sailed the course finally announced by the Squadron.

THE NINE-year love affair continues. When Crusader was in her prime, she represented Britain in what turned out to be the last America's Cup sailed in 12-metres. That was in Fremantle in 1986-87 in one of the most spectacular regattas ever staged.

Britain were knocked out before the semi-finals and the boat returned home, was put in mothballs and stayed that way for three years.

When she turned up to race in club regattas, there was great incredulity. This was like a Grand Duchess groomed for royal ballrooms arriving for a Saturday night hooley at the palat.

She had been taken by businessman and boatbuilder Richard Matthews from the

Boatbuilder Richard Matthews is having a lot of fun with a vintage 12-metre craft. By Stuart Alexander

Crusader syndicate boss Graham Walker in part exchange for a new Oyster 68. "It was one of those deals where both buyer and seller walked away with a smile, both thinking they had done a rather good deal," says Matthews. It has become, for him, a labour of love.

So, what is the man who, only 10 days ago, was the spokesman delegated by the Royal Ocean Racing Club to persuade the world to accept a thoroughly modern handicap rating rule called IR2000, doing charging up and down the Solent, the south coast, Ireland and his home waters of the east coast

doing in an aluminium hulled lead mine of a 12-Metre?

Owning and racing a 12-Metre, he says, gives him an element of separation. "I very much hope our new system will cope with modern boats, even those using ideas about which we have not yet thought," he says. "But if I was still building race boats or campaigning them myself I could not be involved with the RORC in developing a new rule. This way I don't have an axe to grind, so I can enjoy the racing without compromise."

He certainly squeezes a lot of work out of Crusader: The

new mainsail is three years old, and there was some sticky tape bandaging of the headsails both before the start and during yesterday's race. The boat now has an engine, which it did not have originally, and it has done, in Matthews' estimation, about 40,000 miles for him, including four Fastnet races.

Yesterday the target was one of Cowes Week's most coveted trophies, the Britannia Cup and the conditions nearly allowed him to pull it off. A long beat upwind in 15 knots had the boat reeling, though the winch grinders had a fair amount of work to do.

"She is absolutely gorgeous, so beautifully balanced," said Matthews as he romped into the western Solent. "Look, here is 27 tonnes of yacht and I can steer it with two fingers and thumb. She is always so impressive, doing what a 12 does best, going well upwind."

Well enough to secure third place and bring a smile to the lady who runs the pit in the middle of the boat, his wife Louise. And well enough to end a satisfying piece of work by Paul Hebblethwaite, who sailed round the world with a largely disabled crew on Time & Tide.

Deaf and dumb he may be, but the grimace he put into every wind of the winch handles, and the grin at the end gave expression to volumes.

The introduction after the interval of England's captain, Karen Brown, who equalled Sandra Lister's record of 151 appearances for England, immediately brought more pattern into England's game. She sent Jane Sixsmith away down the right; the winger's perfect cross found Kirsty Bowden on the edge of the circle, but her shot was well saved by Forbes.

The winning goal came in the 41st minute. A free-kick by Jo Mould found Lucilla Wright unmarked at the foot of the circle to rocket the ball into the net.

Canada's defence was then subjected to extreme pressure but with Forbes and Kopek in fine form they prevented further England goals. The game ended with Carolyn Reid tipping a clever lob at a penalty corner from Kopek over the bar.

Wright secures series for England

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL
at Milton Keynes

England	2
Canada	1

ENGLAND'S WOMEN notched up their second win over Canada in the three-match series at Milton Keynes yesterday, despite a lacklustre performance. The England coach, Maggie Souyave, said afterwards: "We made heavy weather of it and were particularly ragged in the first half. We must learn to win the ball back. I thought we had some promising moments in the second half."

A fourth-minute goal from Amy MacFarlane, after England's left flank had been taken apart by Christine Hunter, drew first blood for Canada. Two minutes later, England had the chance to draw level, Mandy Nicholls' hard shot being illegally stopped on the line for a penalty stroke, but Sarah Forbes saved well from Jane Smith.

One might have thought that these set-backs would have stirred England into action. Instead, their pedestrian play could find no way past a solid Canadian defence until the 28th minute. The Canadian captain, Laurelee Kopek, winning her 100th cap, could only concede a penalty corner in her efforts to stop the speedy Sarah Blanks. A powerful drive from Smith gave Forbes no chance.

The introduction after the interval of England's captain, Karen Brown, who equalled Sandra Lister's record of 151 appearances for England, immediately brought more pattern into England's game. She sent Jane Sixsmith away down the right; the winger's perfect cross found Kirsty Bowden on the edge of the circle, but her shot was well saved by Forbes.

The winning goal came in the 41st minute. A free-kick by Jo Mould found Lucilla Wright unmarked at the foot of the circle to rocket the ball into the net.

Canada's defence was then subjected to extreme pressure but with Forbes and Kopek in fine form they prevented further England goals. The game ended with Carolyn Reid tipping a clever lob at a penalty corner from Kopek over the bar.

Whitaker celebrates birthday with victory

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY
in Dublin

JOHN WHITAKER marked his 43rd birthday yesterday with an impressive victory on the opening day of the Kerrygold Dublin Horse Show with the 13-year-old Hungarian bred, Virtual Village Randi. On this form, Whitaker thought the grey stallion could be good enough for a place on the Great Britain team in tomorrow's Nations Cup.

Until now, Whitaker has used Randi as a speed horse. But the stallion showed he has a big jump as well in yesterday's 22 horse jump-off for the Kerry Welcome Stakes which Whitaker won by a 0.54 sec margin.

The Briton defeated Peter Wyld of the United States on a striking skewbald called Macanudo Very Well St George. Wyld was a split second ahead of Guido Dominici from Italy on Frisco and the early British leader, James Fisher on Renville.

After a week of indecision, Fisher has decided he will take up his place on the Great Britain squad for the World Equestrian Games in Rome in October. Having won the first three of four international team trials, he has already earned his place with the Dutch-bred Renville, who put up another fine performance with his two clear rounds yesterday.

"Renville is improving with every outing," Ronnie Massarella, the Great Britain team manager, said yesterday. "When I put him in the Nations Cup Team at Modena last year, I was told I was making a mistake. But that was the making of him. He hasn't looked back since."

Renville is certain to be on the British team for the Nations Cup tomorrow. There are two other problems in Nick Skelton on Hopes are high and DI Lampard on Abbervall Dream, who both jumped clear opening rounds yesterday. Lampard withdrew before the jump-off. Skelton took his chance, but had a single error when attempting a sharp turn

to the double (the fourth jump-off fence) to finish 11th. Robert Smith, competing as an individual, also dislodged a pole from the double to be 12th on Senator Tees Hanauer.

Massarella has been encouraged by the recent form of the Great Britain horses competing here. "Suddenly it looks more hopeful, we could have a very good team for the World Games after all."

A Nations Cup win here would be a boost for Massarella after the dismal British performance on home ground at Hickstead, where the team finished a poor fifth last month.

RACING RESULTS

PONTEFRAC

2.20: (1m 21 men amateurs' handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

2.50: (1m maiden)
1. LA ROCHELLE (Mr C Hill 9-1)
2. Shogun (Mr J Roberts 12-1)
3. Stalemate Cyrene (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 10-1 Muretta (4th), 20-1 Eton Hill, 33-1 Dot's Delight (6th), 50-1 Epsworth (5th), 66-1 Awaish, 100-1 College Mount.

3.20: (5f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

3.50: (6f 2yo maiden)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

12.00: (1m 6f, 5f, 4f, 3f, 2f, 1f)
1. LA ROCHELLE (Mr C Hill 9-1)
2. Shogun (Mr J Roberts 12-1)
3. Stalemate Cyrene (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 10-1 Muretta (4th), 20-1 Eton Hill, 33-1 Dot's Delight (6th), 50-1 Epsworth (5th), 66-1 Awaish, 100-1 College Mount.

4.20: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

4.50: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

5.20: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

5.50: (1m 1f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

BRIGHTON

2.40: (1m 2f, 1f, 1f, 1f, 1f, 1f)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

3.20: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

4.00: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

4.30: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £8,622.01 carried forward to Haydock today.
Placepot: £28.80. Quinpot: £5.80.
Place 6: £14.38. Place 5: £3.32.

2.40: (1m 2f, 1f, 1f, 1f, 1f, 1f)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

3.20: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

4.00: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

4.30: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

5.30: (1m 1f, 1f, 1f, 1f, 1f, 1f)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

6.00: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

6.30: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

7.00: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

7.30: (1m 1f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

8.00: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

8.30: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

9.00: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

9.30: (1m 1f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

10.00: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

10.30: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

11.00: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

11.30: (1m 1f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

12.00: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

12.30: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

13.00: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

13.30: (1m 1f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

14.00: (1m 4f handicap)
1. HUNTERS SOURCE (Mr C Hills 9-1)
2. MAZZED (Mr A Hill 7-2)
3. Broad Moon (Mr S Edwards 50-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

14.30: (1m 3f handicap)
1. DONNELL (Mr D Hill 15-2)
2. Goresk (Mr C Hill 9-1)
3. Moon Bruelee (Mr C Hill 9-1)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

15.00: (1m 2f handicap)
1. BIRMAN PLUM (Mr C Hill 12-1)
2. Kian (Mr C Hill 11-10)
3. Coaling (Mr C Hill 11-10)
Also ran: 13-8 Low Vandum Ore, 11-2 Xylom (4th), 6-1 Cashmere Lady (5th), 10-1 Bayo (6th), 40-1 Huso, 50-1 Occasio.

England expects every woman in white to do her duty



Charlotte Edwards, the England batsman, takes a defensive line on her way to a score of 53 in the first women's Test against Australia in Guildford yesterday. England closed on 255 for 3

Craig Prentis/Allsport

Ormond skittles Somerset Lara shines at last with fighting 224

BY MIKE CAREY
at LeicesterSomerset 74
Leicestershire 238-7

IT TAKES some doing to lose all 10 wickets inside 17 overs, but Somerset managed it yesterday. Their total of 74 was the third lowest in the Championship this season and Leicestershire, in total control for most of the day, will wish life was always this straightforward as they step up their pursuit of the title.

The pitch was blameless. True, it had a tinge of green and the ball moved around, but under a cloudless sky most

sides on winning the toss would have expected to battle through until lunch with maybe two wickets down and then cash in. In Somerset's defence (and even George Carman might balk at taking their case), they did experience one of those horrendous sessions in which every error was punished. They nicked the good balls rather than missed them and Leicestershire supported their bowlers with some magnificent close catching.

Like many batting collapses, this one started innocently. Piran Holloway and Peter Bowler had encountered a fair amount of bowling that could be ignored in putting on 20 in 12

overs before Holloway stood for what must have been a faint edge to the wicketkeeper. By now Phil Simmons, leading Leicestershire in the absence of the injured Chris Lewis, had switched his bowlers around, giving James Ormond the slope and the benefit of a cross breeze to help his swing.

It was only Ormond's third championship appearance of the season. He was probably still feeling his way when he persuaded Bowler to cut a wide long hop to third slip, where Aftab Habib, diving low to his right, pulled off a brilliant and improbable catch.

Ormond followed this with a

beauty which bounced and left Richard Harden to have him caught behind; the sight of the best batsman receiving first up a ball which he might have been able to negotiate later probably convinced Somerset this was not their day.

No one was able to dig in. Marcus Trescothick and Keith Parsons both perished, for instance, driving lavishly at Vince Wells without perhaps quite getting to the pitch and there was no way back for Somerset when Michael Burns lost his off-stump and Graham Rose was left before a ball of full length.

The bowler was Ormond, who by now was not only swinging the ball but hitting the wick-

et keeper's gloves regularly at chest height with a hearty thwack. He emerged with six for 33, the best figures of his career, and surely needs only to stay on his feet to come into contention for one tour or another this winter.

When Leicestershire batted, Andy Caddick bowled quite superbly and with great heart without, initially, too much luck and, importantly, too much accurate support at the other end. But he still prised out Wells and Iain Sutherland before Leicestershire went ahead in the 27th over.

He might have had Darren Maddy, too, if he had been given the third slip. Maddy es-

caped on nine and was then happy to drop anchor while Ben Smith enjoyed himself against bowling which fed his strength outside off stump.

Eventually Smith, having reached 50 from 67 balls with nine fours, looked bemused to be given out lbw during a sustained and hostile second spell from Caddick, which also accounted for Simmons and Habib. That took the day's tally of wickets beyond 15, which means an obligatory report to the English Cricket Board's Inspector of Pitches.

The verdict is likely to be nothing more sinister than two sides bowling rather better than they batted.

BY JOHN COLLIS
at Lord'sWarwickshire 372-5
v Middlesex

DISGUSTED OF Edgbaston can put his effigy of Brian Lara back in the shed, because yesterday the Trinidadian offered a return on Warwickshire's investment. After all the mutterings of recent weeks he found a situation ideal for recuperation - a blue sky, a sleepy wicket on the downhill edge of the square, a Middlesex attack without its only bowler of the highest quality, Angus Fraser, and a sunbathing crowd at cricket's headquarters.

This was neither a daring nor a magisterial innings, though it was occasionally illuminated by the familiar Lara touches through the slips and the wistful flicks to leg. Instead there was a skipper taking as long as necessary to hoist his side into an unassailable position. There was one sharp chance to the wicket keeper, but Lara was deep into three figures by then.

He had struggled through 39 first-class innings since last making a hundred, in the St Vincent Test against Sri Lanka

in June of last year, and between times he has found many embarrassing ways of signalling his temporary loss of vision, notably a leaden-footed shuffle across the stumps leaving his pads exposed.

His 200, five overs before the close, was the fifth double-ton of his career and the first since he took 501 off Durham in June, 1994. It came in 258 balls, which on a day when other batsmen became mysteriously becalmed for over after over, was at least a jogging pace.

Nick Knight rushed to 31 runs and then completely forgot how to score. His dismissal seemed only kind. Mark Waugh chose to leave a ball from Richard Johnson which proved to be straight and while Anurag Singh gave Lara valuable support, he managed just 11 scoring strokes from 115 balls.

Neil Smith was his usual pug-nacious self in the last phase of play, by which time Middlesex had tried all their bowlers several times and were giving the batsmen a go.

On 211 Lara passed the previous highest Warwickshire score against Middlesex made by - and here is a pub-quizzicker - Tom Cartwright.

Davies and Parkin boost Glamorgan

ROUND-UP

GLAMORGAN WERE grateful for a last-wicket partnership of 58 which gave their first-innings total a respectable appearance against struggling Essex at Chelmsford.

It featured Andrew Davies and Owen Parkin who, joining forces with the score on 230, resisted for 23 overs before the innings was brought to an end with the total on 288. Both players achieved career bests during the process, Davies making 34 before he was caught by Neil Williams sweeping, and Parkin finishing unbeaten on 24.

Fittingly it was the off-spinner Peter Such who claimed the final wicket, to finish with five for 110 from 39.2 overs. That spell was interrupted only by breaks for lunch and tea, after he arrived in the attack just before noon. It was Such who ended the most entertaining innings of the day, one of 68 from as many deliveries by the 19-year-old Wayne Law.

Left with 10 overs before the close, Essex responded with 23 for the loss of Ian Flanagan, the 18-year-old falling lbw to Parkin in the third over.

Lancashire battled into a commanding position on a slow Old Trafford pitch against their fellow Championship contenders, Gloucestershire.

It was a track which persuaded the visitors to use the off-spinner Martyn Ball after only eight overs, and he responded with two long spells which earned him three for 119 off 42 overs. But Lancashire, without England's Mike Atherton and Andy Flintoff, dug deep into their resources to reach 269 for seven at the close after opting to bat.

Lancashire showed consistency in their batting and their highest scorer was John Crawley, who maintained his rich vein of form with 43, following three successive Championship centuries, to underline his claims for an England Test recall.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance
Championship

Essex v Glamorgan

CHELMSFORD (Day 1 of 4): Essex (4 pts) are trailing Glamorgan (2 pts) by 265 runs with 9 first-innings wickets in hand				
GLAMORGAN — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
S P James c Hyam b Williams	11	0	0	11
W L Law b Such	10	0	0	10
M P Maynard c Robinson b Such	30	0	0	30
P A Cotter c Grayson b Such	10	0	0	10
D B Croft c Flanagan b Such	4	0	0	4
A Cole c Hyam b Williams	73	0	0	73
H Dawood c Flanagan b Williams	7	0	0	7
S D Thomas c Law b Williams	8	0	0	8
D A Coker c Hodgson b Law	7	0	0	7
O T Parkin not out	24	0	0	24
A P Davies c Williams b Such	34	0	0	34
Extras (10: 100 wks m0)	23	0	0	23
Total (91.2 overs)	288	0	0	288
Falls: 1-21, 2-106, 3-172, 4-174, 5-200, 6-202, 7-211, 8-214, 9-230.				
Bowling: M C Hogg 10-3-30-0, N F Williams 13-3-42-4, R C Iram 15-2-59-0, P M Such 39-2-12-110-5, D R Law 14-3-36-1.				

ESSEX — Second Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
D J Robinson not out	10	0	0	10
I N Flanagan lbw b Parkin	5	0	0	5
I P Hodgson not out	4	0	0	4
Extras (w0 m0)	4	0	0	4
Total (for 1, 10 overs)	23	0	0	23
Falls: 1-7, 2-23, 3-26, 4-35, 5-46, 6-52, 7-69, 8-93, 9-71.				
Bowling: D J Parkin 3-2-2-1, S D Thomas 5-1-15-0, R D B Croft 2-0-0-0.				
Umpires: G J Burgess and J H Hampshire.				

Kent v Hampshire

CANTERBURY (Day 1 of 4): Kent (4 pts) have scored 391 for all wickets against Hampshire (4 pts)				
KENT — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
D P Fulton lbw b Morris	34	0	0	105
E T Smith c Ayres b Hartley	0	0	0	5
R W T Key c Ayres b McLaughlin	54	0	0	84
C L Hooper lbw b Morris	36	0	0	51
W J House c A b Morris	5	0	0	10
M A Eallam c White b James	13	0	0	21
M V Fleming c Stephenson b Morris	51	0	0	99
15 A Marsh c Ayres b Stephenson	0	0	0	5
D W Headley c Ayres b James	81	0	0	165
M J McCague b James	7	0	0	12
M M Patel not out	58	0	0	90
Extras (16: 10 w0 m0)	34	0	0	34
Total (163.2 overs)	391	0	0	391
Falls: 1-12, 2-42, 3-128, 4-134, 5-157, 6-171, 7-172, 8-257, 9-268.				
Bowling: N A McLean 19-4-65-1, P J Hartley 17-1-54-1, J P Stephenson 16-4-55-1, S D Udal 11-2-39-0, K D James 16-2-66-3, A C Morris 18-2-72-4, A D Mascarenhas 6-0-23-0.				
Umpires: A A Jones and N T Pleves.				

SECOND DAY CHAMPIONSHIP Southampton (Second Day of Four): Sussex 430 (P W Jarvis 760, N R Taylor 79) Hampshire 275-5 (M Keen 102, P R Whitaker 56). Cardiff (First Day of Three): Middlesex 315-7 (R J Kettleborough 93, A J Strauss 62) v Glamorgan.

* Due to technical problems, the listings breakdowns were unavailable at time of going to press.

Lancashire v Gloucestershire

OLD TRAFFORD (Day 1 of 4): Lancashire (2 pts) have scored 269 for 7 wickets against Gloucestershire (3 pts)				
LANCASHIRE — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
P C McKeown c Hancock b Ball	21	0	0	73
N Wood c Smith b Ball	24	0	0	105
J P Crawley c Lewis b Allen	43	0	0	85
M A Robinson lbw b Ball	33	0	0	58
G D Lloyd c Dawson b Hancock	38	0	0	58
T W Kegg c Hancock b Walsh	26	0	0	75
Wesley Allen lbw b Dawson	37	0	0	75
G Vokes not out	30	0	0	83
G Chapple not out	0	0	0	14
Extras (10: 100 w0 m0)	14	0	0	14
Total (for 7, 107 overs)	269	0	0	269
Falls: 1-39, 2-49, 3-119, 4-145, 5-180, 6-212, 7-262.				
To Bat: C P Schofield, P J Maroon.				
Bowling: C A Walsh 18-10-17-1, A M Smith 12-3-32-0, M C Ball 4-2-119-3, J Lewis 14-6-42-0, M W Almy 14-3-47-1, T H C Hancock 5-2-15-1, R I Dawson 2-0-8-1.				
Umpires: J C Balderson and B Leadbeter.				

Leicestershire v Somerset

LEICESTER (Day 1 of 4): Leicestershire (1 pt) are leading Somerset (3 pts) by 154 runs with 3 first-innings wickets in hand				
SOMERSET — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
P D Bowler c Habib b Ormond	17	0	0	38
P C L Holloway c Nixon b Wells	7	0	0	34
M E Trescothick c Smith b Wells	15	0	0	20
R J Harden c Nixon b Ormond	0	0	0	6
A A Parsons c Smith b Wells	0	0	0	6
M Burns b Ormond	7	0	0	14
G D Rose lbw b Ormond	8	0	0	16
A R R Pearson c Crowe b Simmons	7	0	0	21
J D Sutton b Ormond	0	0	0	3
R C Caddick c Nixon b Ormond	2	0	0	11
P S Jones not out	0	0	0	6
Extras (w0 m0)	4	0	0	4
Total (for 7, 72 overs)	228	0	0	228
Falls: 1-24, 2-36, 3-100, 4-106, 5-161.				
To Bat: R C Iram, A P Grayson, S D Peters, D R Law, B J Hyam, M C Hogg, N F Williams, P M Such.				
Bowling: D J Parkin 3-2-2-1, S D Thomas 5-1-15-0, R D B Croft 2-0-0-0.				
Umpires: G J Burgess and J H Hampshire.				

Kent v Hampshire

CANTERBURY (Day 1 of 4): Kent (4 pts) have scored 391 for all wickets against Hampshire (4 pts)				
KENT — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
D P Fulton lbw b Morris	34	0	0	105
E T Smith c Ayres b Hartley	0	0	0	5
R W T Key c Ayres b McLaughlin	54	0	0	84
C L Hooper lbw b Morris	36	0	0	51
W J House c A b Morris	5	0	0	10
M A Eallam c White b James	13	0	0	21
M V Fleming c Stephenson b Morris	51	0	0	99
15 A Marsh c Ayres b Stephenson	0	0	0	5
D W Headley c Ayres b James	81	0	0	165
M J McCague b James	7	0	0	12
M M Patel not out	58	0	0	90
Extras (16: 10 w0 m0)	34	0	0	34
Total (163.2 overs)	391	0	0	391
Falls: 1-12, 2-42, 3-128, 4-134, 5-157, 6-171, 7-172, 8-257, 9-268.				
Bowling: N A McLean 19-4-65-1, P J Hartley 17-1-54-1, J P Stephenson 16-4-55-1, S D Udal 11-2-39-0, K D James 16-2-66-3, A C Morris 18-2-72-4, A D Mascarenhas 6-0-23-0.				
Umpires: A A Jones and N T Pleves.				

Middlesex v Warwickshire

LORETT (Day 1 of 4): Warwickshire (4 pts) have scored 372 for 3 wickets against Middlesex (2 pts)				
WARWICKSHIRE — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
M J Powell c Weales b Batt	36	0	0	93
N V Knight b Batt	0	0	0	25
M A Waugh b Johnson	2	0	0	25
G C Laro not out	24	0	0	33
A Singh c Shah b Johnson	41	1	0	115
R J Piper b Tunell	0	0	0	9
N M Smith not out	85	1	0	62
Extras (14: 10 w0 m0)	28	0	0	28
Total (for 5, 104 overs)	372	0	0	372
Falls: 1-36, 2-36, 3-100, 4-126, 5-156.				
To Bat: G Welch, A F Giles, T A Munton, E S Giddins.				
Bowling: J Bloomfield 15-4-65-0, C Batt 16-2-61-2, R L Johnson 20-4-52-0, D J Goodchild 1-1-20-0, P C R Tunell 28-5-80-1, P Weales 12-1-55-0, J Linger 4-1-17-0, O Shah 2-0-0-0.				
Umpires: J H Harris and J F Steele.				

Sussex v Durham

EASTBOURNE (Day 1 of 4): Sussex (3 pts) have scored 322 for 6 wickets against Durham (2 pts)				
SUSSEX — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
M E Pelton c Gough b Harrison	16	0	0	23
W G Khan b Wood	21	0	0	112
M Newell lbw b Harrison	7	0	0	18
R J Adams c Stoughton b Harrison	56	1	0	80
M G Bevan not out	59	0	0	18
R K Rano not out	19	0	0	18
S Humphries c Speight b Collingwood	19	0	0	18
J Bates not out	0	0	0	0
Extras (10: 100 w0 m0)	27	0	0	27
Total (for 6, 97.2 overs)	322	0	0	322
Falls: 1-39, 2-49, 3-166, 4-214, 5-277, 6-322.				
To Bat: R J Kirtley, J D Lewis, M A Robinson.				
Bowling: J Wood 97-2-0-0-0.				
Umpires: H D Bird and M J Harris.				

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire

KIDDERMINSTER (Day 1 of 4): Worcestershire (4 pts) are trailing Nottinghamshire (1 pt) by 50 runs with 6 first-innings wickets in hand				
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE — First Innings				
	Runs	50s	40s	Mins
G E Wilson c Leatherdale b Moody	16	0	0	52
J E Gallian c Leatherdale b Chapman	0	0	0	28
U Arzallu c Moody b Lampitt	10	0	0	37
P Johnson c Leatherdale b Chapman	42	0	0	54
W Batson c Solanki b Ravensley	0	0	0	37
C M Tolley b Newport	0	0	0	9
P J Francis c Rhodes b Newport	0	0	0	36
C M Tolley b Newport	0	0	0	36
P A Strang c Solanki b Lampitt	11	0	0	23
C M Tolley b Solanki b Ravensley	0	0	0	21
A R Oram not out	0	0	0	5
D A Leatherdale not out	0	0	0	5
Extras (10: 100 w0 m0)	21	0	0	21
Total (for 5, 90 overs)	144	0	0	144
Falls: 1-26, 2-39, 3-45, 4-101, 5-110, 6-110, 7-133, 8-152, 9-162.				
To Bat: P J Newport 14-6-25-2, R J Chapman 13-4-52-2, S R Lampitt 15-7-35-2, T M Moody 5-0-23-1, M J Ravensley 7-2-14-2, D A Leatherdale 3-1-14-0.				

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire



SPORT



RELIEF AT LAST FOR LARA P26 • DAVIES' GLENEAGLES MISSION P25

Fifth Test: Classic confrontation will determine whether hosts are on the road to recovery or the road to nowhere

Stewart relishes ultimate Test

BY DEREK PRINGLE
Cricket correspondent

IF ALL the hype is to be believed, this morning's decisive Test match at Headingley against South Africa represents not so much a crossroads for English cricket as the only road. For many the outlook is stark and the choices for England, who have not won a five or six match home series since 1985, are either winning or oblivion.

Not surprisingly this black and white view is not one shared by the England captain, Alec Stewart. "We are going to treat it like any other Test match," he said yesterday.

"We know it's important but, if you get too giddy or excited, you might not do yourself justice. Hopefully we will break the 13 year duck, but we must not lose focus on what's ahead."

If there was tension it was not showing yesterday, and, following a team dinner on Tuesday night where the odd bottle of Lynches Bages '61 was apparently drunk, the England players looked decidedly relaxed at practice. Their captain, too, was in a jovial mood and, when asked if England were on a roll after their win at Trent Bridge, Stewart replied: "What, because we won one on the trot?"

Stewart has been involved in vital final Test matches before, most notably against Pakistan in 1992 and the West Indies in 1994. However, England's record in deciding Test matches is not a particularly good one and, since the war, England have won just 2 (in 1953 and 1955) from the eight Test series that have been level going into the final Test.

The toss, if not decisive, will nonetheless be important. With the weather forecast set fair for the duration of the match, both sides will want to bat first before the pitch dries and cracks and the bounce becomes more variable. Only heavy cloud cover at 11 this morning will provide any temptation to bowl first.

The promised warm, sunny weather means that both sides will probably also play a frontline spinner, though Headingley's reputation as a seamer's paradise - one largely undeserved since the Test pitch was relaid here three years ago - may yet influence the final selection.

If South Africa, who feel the match will be won by attrition, decide to play a spinner they are likely to replace Paul Adams with the 37-year-old off-spinner Pat Symcox, a gnarled competitor who will give little and expect even less.



England's batsmen finalise their preparation in the nets ahead of tomorrow's fifth and decisive Test match against South Africa at Headingley

David Ashdown

However, should the visitors adopt a no-spin policy, Brian McMillan will be the man included though, with Makhaya Ntini back after injury and both Jacques Kallis and Hansie Cronje to back up Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, another seamer would be overdoing things a touch.

England, their top six unchanged now that Mark Ramprakash is over his tonsillitis, are likewise considering their bowling options. With Andrew Flintoff certain to play as an all-rounder, the choice will be between Ian Salisbury, Alan Mullally and Dominic Cork.

Although the re-modelled Salis-

bury has not lived up to the promise of his washing powder billing (new and improved), he is still a useful option to have should the pitch dry out.

Providing Stewart gives him the right field, and only Cronje really dominated him at Trent Bridge, Salisbury might still have a part to play by making sure the South African tail, lengthened if Symcox plays, does not wag.

If the leg-spinner is included the remaining place would be a straight choice between Cork and Mullally. It will be a difficult decision, for Mullally has been bowling well for Leicestershire while Cork, the more

experienced of the pair, has veered between the challenging and the mundane.

Both could play but that would mean leaving any spinning duties to Graeme Hick and Ramprakash - a ploy that, while perhaps buying a couple of maidens, would probably result in few wickets.

Considering the importance of the match Cork should play, not least because he knows what it is like to win a Test match with the ball. Once such a path has been trodden, finding your way back is far easier than someone trying to do it for the first time.

With 25 wickets at 21.25 in the

series so far nobody knows this better than Donald, who was yesterday fined half his match fee (around £550) and given a one match ban, suspended for 12 months, for comments made about the umpire Mervyn Kitchen.

In a lengthy statement the match referee, Ahmed Ibrahim, a high court judge from Zimbabwe, found Donald's conduct to be "reprehensible" and that his remarks, made on Radio 5, called for the "strongest condemnation."

By echoing Kitchen's own feelings about the Trent Bridge Test, that he made a few bad decisions (not,

though, the controversial one to give Atherton not out, which was made by Steve Dunne), Donald apparently breached three clauses of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) code of conduct.

Unlike Ramprakash, whose fine at Lord's was for disagreeing with the umpire, Donald was actually agreeing with the umpire, supporting the view that he'd had "a shocker."

While any right-minded person realises that the abundance of TV replays have placed umpires in an invidious position, it is a nonsense to punish a player for being honest

in an interview being conducted in his second language. In fact, had Kitchen's own thoughts not appeared in print it is unlikely that Donald - as gentlemanly a fast bowler as you could wish to meet - would have ventured the comments he did.

The effect this punishment will have on the match, and England's chances of winning their first major series this decade, will not be known until Donald bowls.

Somebody asked yesterday how long it would take for Donald to appeal. One was replied: "Probably his first over."

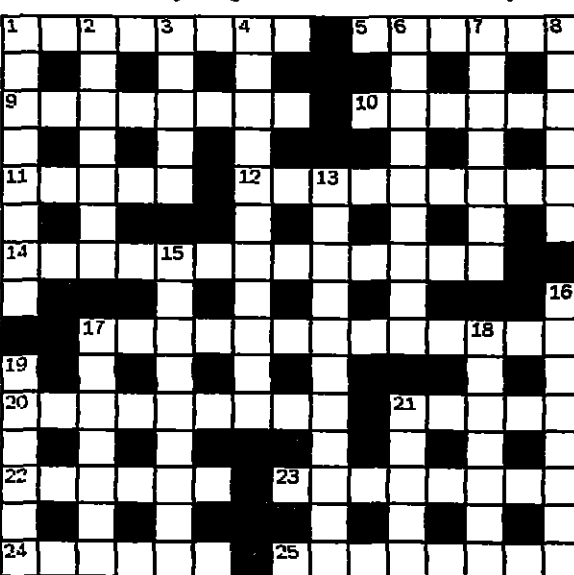
England history lesson, page 22

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3682, Thursday 6 August

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



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ACROSS

- 1 Good (but not universal) Old Master (8)
- 5 Repair end (4, 2)
- 9 Note drift by Queen, making for file (8)
- 10 West, in Hearts, stews (6)
- 11 Orbital object's approach, with hint of tail (5)
- 12 Measure by vocalist, charming one (9)
- 14 It calls for delivery 'With Care' (6-7)
- 17 Confidently rendering solo (13)
- 20 Occasion could prove dead newsy (9)
- 21 Bluffs caught twits (5)

DOWN

- 2 Secure new heel at rear of shoe (6)
- 3 Ring in denouncing country sport (8)
- 4 Throws away pawn during moves (6)
- 6 Like artist in drink, ambitious one (8)
- 1 A cleric's set up high finance with accuracy (8)
- 2 Administration heading new diet 97
- 3 Unexpected win from overthrow (5)
- 4 Ornate pottery, see - first from Dresden - in stock (11)

- 6 City (and its location) with standing Liberal getting in (9)
- 7 Characteristic yellow grass (7)
- 8 Sickly without right food (9)
- 13 They augment existing stacks (7, 4)
- 15 Not at all saucy! (9)
- 16 Number imbued with a positive vision (8)
- 17 Feast of humour (7)
- 18 Empress's robe in checkered tan (7)
- 19 Time eliminates certain garments (6)
- 21 Tooth, about right one for a dog (5)

Ferguson hits out at Kluivert

FOOTBALL
BY NICK HARRIS

ALEX FERGUSON yesterday made public his disgust that Patrick Kluivert has turned down a move to Manchester United and insisted that he still intends to sign Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa.

The Old Trafford manager said he had been led to believe that Kluivert wanted to join United - for £3m from Milan - but that the player had now committed himself to another 12 months in Serie A in Italy.

"It won't be the last time this kind of thing happens but players we really want we usually get," Ferguson said. "We were led to believe he wanted to speak to us, but you know what agents are like. Maybe he doesn't know how big a club Manchester United is."

It is the second time that Kluivert has talked himself out of a move to England. The 22-year-old Dutch striker's excessive wage demands cooled recent interest from Arsenal, although it now seems, if he did choose to move to the Premiership in the future, he would prefer London to Manchester.

"I'm surprised he didn't give himself the opportunity to speak to us and now we hear he wants to go to London," Ferguson said. "If that is where he wants to live, there is nothing we can do about it."

While Ferguson is clearly unhappy not to have secured Kluivert's services, the rejection seems to have strengthened his resolve to sign Yorke.

Clubs competing in the European Champions' League - and United should qualify by beating LKS Lodz over two legs later this month - have until 18 August to register their squads and Ferguson is desperate to reinforce his before then. "We would be very disappointed if we didn't register anyone by the Champions' League deadline," he said.

"We are still interested in Dwight and hopefully something can be done about that this week."

The Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, has given himself another 24 hours to sign the Argentinian defender, Nelson Vivas. The Gunners have agreed a £2m fee with Vivas' Swiss club, Lugano, and the player has already completed his medical.

"We are hopeful of completing the transfer very quickly but we need one more day to have a chance," Wenger said.

Wenger denied speculation that he had made an offer for Real Madrid's Dutch midfielder, Clarence Seedorf. "He is a great player but we have a strong midfield," he said.

Aston Villa have warned Everton they will call central defender David Unsworth back for training if his £3m move to Goodison Park is not finalised shortly.

Unsworth left Villa last week, joining former club Everton within a week of arriving at Villa Park in a £3m move from West Ham. His transfer back to Goodison Park has yet to be

completed and Villa are beginning to lose their patience. "It has got to the extent that the manager is threatening to call Unsworth back for training," a Villa spokesman said. "Naturally we are inquiring about the delays but Everton insist that they are purely technical."

The Villa manager, John Gregory, meanwhile, said yesterday he will maintain an interest in Atletico Madrid's Juninho. "As far as I know, Juninho is definitely not for sale, but if there are any developments in the future then I would be interested in a deal," he said.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, yesterday warned Paul Gascoigne to stop drinking alcohol. The 31-year-old midfielder has been left out of Glenn Hoddle's 23-man pre-Euro 2000 training list together with Robson said: "There's a right time to go out and enjoy yourself, and there's a right time to knuckle down and get on top of your fitness before you do enjoy a couple of drinks, and that's what Gazza's got to do."

Chelsea plan to appeal against the sending off of Dennis Wise in the 4-0 friendly defeat by Atletico Madrid in Arnhem on Tuesday. Wise could miss the opening three games of the Premiership season if the Dutch FA passes on details to its English counterparts.

The former Liverpool striker, Ian Rush, has signed a one-year deal to become the player-coach at Wrexham.

Nationwide guide, page 23
Ken Jones, page 22

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INDEPENDENT
Saturday 6 August 1998

THE INDEPENDENT

6 August 1998

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



The end of Liffe as we know it

Open outcry traders in their bright blazers are young, rash, thick-skinned. They take a lot of money without any knowledge of the markets. And pretty soon they'll be out of a job, as trading on a screen replaces the stand-up routine

By TIM HULSE

It's crazy down there," says Gary. "When it's kicking off, it's blinding. It's very loud, very fierce, very aggressive. It's like a football crowd." Gary is 25 and until recently he was employed by a foreign stockbroking company as a floor trader at the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, better known as Liffe (pronounced "life"). Gary is an East End boy. He favours clothes by F&F, which is about as fashionable as it gets at the moment, and he drives a Ferrari. His friend Tony, who is 27, still trades at Liffe. He wears Armani and Boss and his car is a two-seater Merc. Liffe's been good to both of them.

One of the four pillars of the modern City, along with the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and Lloyd's, London's futures exchange was founded in 1982. It was set up for the purpose of trading complex financial products based on the future value of equities, bonds, currencies and interest rates. The way this business is done is known as "open outcry". Traders stand around a stepped pit area and do deals by means of shouting and a complicated code of hand signals. They wear coloured jackets so that the company or bank they represent can be easily identified in what can become a manic feeding frenzy of buying and selling. It's a job which requires quick wits and a lot of front, but not necessarily a degree in economics. Which is where the likes of Gary and Tony come in.

Gary left school with a couple of A levels. He'd always wanted to be a futures trader "because of the hustle and bustle of it, basically". One day he was in the pub and ran into a guy he'd been at school with who was trading at Liffe. He gave Gary a name to call, and Bob's your uncle, a week later he was in. "It was a word of mouth thing," he says. "It's not what you know, it's who you know, basically."

Gary's new employers were more interested in his attitude than his qualifications. "When I had my interview, they said, 'Gary, can you take shit?'" he says. "I said, 'Yeah, course I can.' They said, 'No, can you really take shit? You've got to be quite hard.' There are some very clever people down there who've got qualifications and everything, but some of the guys don't even know who the Prime Minister is, if you know what I mean," says Tony. "If you've got a bit of common sense, you can bag a bit and if you're quite tough, that's enough to get you through, really."

It's a macho world down on the floor, and women traders are rare. "They're like geezer birds," says Gary. "They swear, they scream, they act like one of the lads. They still get shit, but they're pretty thick-skinned. I wouldn't recommend any of my women friends to get a job down there."

"Like mates down the pub" is how Tony describes the ambience on the trading floor. "You have a laugh," he says. "Most of the time you're just sitting around waiting for the orders to come in, so to fill the time you muck around, tell jokes, scream and shout at people."

"But obviously when it kicks off, people do their business," says Gary. "When a trade comes in, you're competing with the person next to you. You have to do the business and generate the profits, because at the end of the year, that's how you're judged." A salary of £150,000 is by no means uncommon for traders like Gary and Tony. And that's before bonuses, which can be equally huge. But it's the so-called "locals", who wear red jackets and trade with their own money, who make the really big money. A former carpet-fitter from Kent who set up his own dealing business is said to have made £8m in one year. The corresponding losses, however, tend to be less well publicised.

"You've got to have a big pair of bollocks to trade with your own money," says Gary.

"Bollocks of steel," agrees Tony.

But the big money could well be a thing of the past. Gary left his job three months ago and now spends his time ducking and diving in the property business. Tony is uncertain about his future. The jokes and japes on Liffe's trading floor have now been replaced by talk of sackings and salary cuts. The game is finally up, it seems, for the men in coloured jackets, and the very future of Liffe itself is in doubt.

The problem with open outcry trading is that it is costly and cumbersome compared to the alternative - trading electronically on a screen. It's high on manpower, requiring teams of clerks to route deals back to the office, and is said to cost three or four

times as much as screen trading. It also restricts the number of people able to trade, requiring a physical presence in the pit or the intermediary of a broker.

Liffe's main European rival, formerly known as the Deutsche Terminbörse (DTB), but now known as Eurex and based in Frankfurt, is a purely screen-based exchange, and last summer it began a campaign to exploit its technological edge. The battle was to be fought over the Bund futures market, in which 10-year German government bonds are traded for future delivery. Not only has the Bund long been Liffe's most prestigious trading contract, but it is widely acknowledged that wherever the Bund market ends up will be the home of the futures contract in Euros following the first stage of European Monetary Union at the beginning of next year. The stakes could hardly have been higher.

This time last year, Liffe had around 70 per cent of the Bund market, yet on a typical day last month, the London exchange traded a mere 8,000 lots compared to Frankfurt's 238,000 - a paltry four per cent. The German victory has been comprehensive, and it has been won by means of technology.

Last July, at its annual meeting, the Liffe board announced that it believed its open outcry system was "the fairest and most efficient" and would remain the predominant trading platform for the foreseeable future. In response, Jorg Franke, a director of the German stock exchange, commented, "I think the electronic exchange has the advantage, so I'm pleased London has stayed with open outcry. They will change to the electronic system ultimately". But not even Herr Franke could have imagined how quickly his words would come true.

By the end of January, figures showed that Eurex had captured 56.5 per cent of the Bund futures market, triggering celebrations in Frankfurt and growing alarm in London. By the end of February, Liffe's share of the market was down to 39 per cent. Clearly something had to be done. In March, in a remarkable volte-face, Liffe announced that it would develop an electronic trading system to function alongside its traditional pit trading. The system, called Liffe Connect, would be up and running, it said, by the fourth quarter of 1998.

However, this was too little too late for those traders who were already pushing for the development of screen trading. Typical was David Kyte, an independent trader who resigned from the Liffe board in March because of what he called a "build-up of frustration". Formerly an outspoken advocate of open outcry, Kyte had now seen that the future was screen-based. "Trade will be by mouse, not mouth," he said.

In April, Eurex went one step further, offering all Liffe members a free six-month trial of its electronic trading system. Werner Siebert, chairman of the German stock exchange, declined to comment on how many Liffe members had taken up the offer, saying only, "Let's just say that this has been our cheapest acquisition of members. Traders are very disloyal".

Those who remained loyal, however, were becoming more and more frustrated as the Bund market slipped away. In May, Liffe announced that it planned to bring forward the introduction of electronic trading by six months, and on 9 June, at an extraordinary general meeting, Liffe's members were asked to vote on the proposed changes. They approved them by a resounding majority of 98 per cent. Liffe chairman Jack Wigglesworth could give no definitive answer to questions from the floor asking whether Liffe would try to retain open outcry for some contracts. "The market will vote with its feet," he said.

The market has certainly voted with its feet in terms of Liffe shares, which have fallen in value by up to 75 per cent. Shares in Liffe give trading rights on the floor, and their plummeting price is a clear signal that many believe the best days of the exchange are over. The bleak reality for Liffe's open outcry traders is that they must now adapt or die. The main problem is that trading on a screen requires a considerably greater knowledge of how a market works than does open outcry, and as one Liffe insider points out: "It's probably fair to say that most traders on the Liffe floor don't really know what they're trading. They could be trading sausages."

"Basically most of them are buggered," says Maltimore. "The trouble for a lot of the traders is that their only skill is in the execution of open outcry trading. They don't know anything about markets. They know the basic rudiments of it, but they don't know why the markets go up or down. They just react to the order flow."

For David Kyte, the answer lies in "re-education". He has al-

ready learnt how to trade on a screen, but others are clinging on to their old skills and talk about trading oil at the International Petroleum Exchange, where open outcry still flourishes for the moment. According to one trader, "a quarter will start trading on computer, a quarter will go back to driving cabs, a quarter will be out of work and a quarter will retire".

"People get comfortable with their environment, but you have to change," says David Kyte. "I think it's only a question of time. There'll be problems with computers - mine's just frozen now as I'm talking to you - but when it does work, it's quicker and it's better. Open outcry was a great concept, it is a great concept, but we progress."

At the beginning of October last year, the City of London Corporation unveiled a new statue. Cast in bronze by the sculptor Stephen Melton, it depicted a futures trader in a striped jacket, his tie casually loosened, talking into his mobile phone. It cost £40,000 and stands on the corner of Cannon Street and Walbrook, just a couple of hundred yards from the main Liffe building. It was intended as a celebration of the City's most colourful characters, but already it is taking on the air of a memorial. "Here lies the Unknown Trader - we will remember him."

Or as Gary puts it: "It was good for a while, but you move on, you know what I mean?"

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	Obituaries	6-7	Education	15-16	Today's TV	24	

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Humiliating Iraq

Sir: The UN inspection team in Iraq is insisting that all chemical and biological agents that might be used in weapons of mass destruction should be accounted for. It is an impossible task.

In 1965, the US Atomic Energy Commission audit team found that nearly 100 kg of weapons-grade uranium had "gone missing" from the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation reprocessing plant in Apollo, Pennsylvania. The loss was ascribed to processing wastage and accounting inaccuracies. If such a discrepancy can occur for one material in one installation, how can the Iraqis be expected to account for a range of substances over the whole country?

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the motive for the continued use of sanctions against Iraq is to humiliate the Iraqi people rather than to prevent the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

CHARLES HUGHES
Felixstowe

Sir: Robin Cook has said that the actions of the Iraqi government to "thwart" the work of the UN Special Commission on Iraq (Unscim) were in "direct contravention of the memorandum of understanding agreed between UN secretary general Kofi Annan and Iraq's Tariq Aziz in February 1998". Mr Cook's view may or may not be appropriate. However, I challenge the Foreign Secretary to reveal the part of the UN charter which allows for the imposition of genocidal sanctions on an innocent population.

Mr Cook should put words into deeds regarding an ethical foreign policy and heed the opinion of the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Iraq, Denis Halliday, who believes that sanctions have been causing untold suffering to 23 million Iraqis and should be ended and that humanitarian aid was "only hand-aid stuff".

R NADHMI
London SW6

Sir: Your editorial "These Iraq talks are achieving nothing" (4 August) might as appropriately have been headed "Iraq sanctions achieve nothing". What UN sanctions have achieved is to force the resignation of the UN's own Iraq co-ordinator, Denis Halliday. Appalled by the suffering of the Iraqi people, for which he holds Saddam Hussein and UN sanctions jointly responsible, Mr Halliday has sacrificed his own UN career.

The real problem is that oil producing countries are already suffering from low oil prices. Were Iraq to be allowed once again to export oil freely and to rebuild its shattered infrastructure, the present world oil surplus would increase and prices fall even further. Saudi Arabia would be one of the chief sufferers. It is also the most important Middle East customer of the British Arms Trade. Is Britain prepared to absorb a substantial loss in its British arms trade earnings in order to end the terrible suffering of the Iraqi people?

DR MI HEATLEY
Oxford

Macdonald blow

Sir: The creation of Gus Macdonald as minister ("Crownspin row over TV tycoon", 4 August) raises wider questions about democracy in this country, not just the House of Commons.

One can see this as yet another blow to the North-east of England. Not only do the Scots get another minister banging the table for the Scottish Parliament, but also no minister for the region, banging the drum for us. This may indeed seem to Scots as crying over spilt milk, but, increasingly we in the North-east are being put at a disadvantage versus Scotland, and to a lesser extent, Wales.

The Labour Party, by not decreasing the number of Westminster MPs on the re-opening of a Scottish Parliament,

by not creating a northern assembly and by the appointment of Mr Macdonald may be serving our Scottish friends but it is badly disserving England's North-east.

TOM WOODWARD
Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: The fact that not one of the 300,000 members of the Labour Party were considered good enough to become Scottish Industry Minister is a significant indictment of the quality of the membership.

PAUL WALTER
Newbury, Berkshire

Pension 'criminals'

Sir: That white-collar and corporate crime is under-policed and under-prosecuted in contrast with street crime is shown dramatically in the latest development in the pension mis-selling scandal ("Insurance giants in fraud squad inquiry into pension sales fiasco", 4 August).

Last year the Government identified 800,000 "priority cases" where victims required compensation, and highlighted another 1.5 million cases that would have to be dealt with. There can be little doubt that mis-selling by some firms was systemic and endemic. The very scale of the problem rebuts any assumption that the misappropriation of an estimated £4bn from vulnerable consumers resulted only from a few stupid salespersons or rotten apples.

It challenges belief that companies (the suspects) are being given responsibility for deciding whether policies have been mis-sold. The Financial Services Authority says it has not pursued any criminal matters because, in the cases examined, no evidence had been found of "prior intent".

In English law, however, all sorts of serious assaults, sex crimes, and property offences are convictable upon proof of recklessness. The Financial Services Act

criminalises misleading statements made dishonestly or "recklessly" by someone selling an investment product.

DR GARY SLAPPER
The Law Programme
Open University, Milton Keynes

Rhino horn shock

Sir: Surely the whole conservation world is shocked at the news that Wilfred Bull, who, while still in jail for murdering his wife, imported into the UK £2m worth of rhino horn, is now to have his haul returned to him as a result of the decision of the Court of Appeal. He must be a very happy man to know that he may make a quick buck from selling the proceeds of his nefarious activities, to bolster up the sickening and illegal Chinese medicine trade in the Far East. There must be something seriously wrong.

We know that the G8 Heads of Government have endorsed their Environment Ministers' decisions for immediate action to combat the vast international trade in parts

from endangered mammals. Now, our Court of Appeal denies the Crown Prosecution Service leave even to appeal to the House of Lords to stop horns worth all this money from one of the world's most endangered mammals being returned to a convicted criminal. It makes nonsense of the law.

The horns reportedly smuggled here were seized by the police in 1986 on an ESPCA tip-off. Apparently, the 103 horns were collected by Mr Bull before 1985 import controls were instigated and this amazing decision now surely undermines the work done by Customs and Excise and the police to stop the trade.

The RSPCA rightly says that repercussions could be international and conservationists overseas may take the UK to the cleaners on this issue. Ignorance and/or preoccupation with legal technicalities has given a tremendous boost to those who are intent on seeing the extermination of the few remaining tigers and rhinos for money. All this is while African law enforcement men are

murdered trying to protect endangered species in countries such as Zambia, which has now lost virtually all its rhino.

I appeal to Britain's conservationists to call for a public enquiry or to seek justice in other courts. Why deny a hearing by law lords rich in experience as well as many who are notable for their common sense and their realisation that conservation responsibilities have to be taken seriously?

DAVID SHEPHERD
Cranleigh, Surrey

Detectives come out

Sir: Stephen Knight is wrong to state "The strange case of the missing gay detectives", 3 August that there is a "near absence" of gay crime fiction. The heterosexual novelist Jonathan Kellerman's cop, Milo, one of the most famous characters in contemporary crime fiction, is gay. Many gay male novelists, too, have been producing queer versions of this popular genre.

Indeed, St Martin's Press

publishes a whole series of "Stonewall Inn Mysteries" with gay detectives. Professor Knight should begin by reading the novels of Michael Nava. GREGORY WOODS
Professor of Gay and Lesbian Studies
Nottingham Trent University
Nottingham

Keen Internet gags

Sir: I share Chris Gulker's alarm ("Beware of barriers to free speech", 3 August) at the legislation sponsored by Senator Dan Coats and Senator John McCain that is going through the US Senate. The implementation of these Bills will effectively place the same restrictions on freedom of expression on the Net that the Communications Decency Act would have done had it not been rejected by the Supreme Court.

Although this legislation is alarming, what is even more disturbing is the level of self-censorship that occurs on the Net. Internet service providers are only too willing to impose terms and conditions on their customers. The aim of these conditions is to avoid the display of material that may "offend" certain groups. The recent case where AOL ordered the removal of material deemed offensive to Muslims springs to mind. Net users are being denied the chance to decide for themselves what material is valid, what is offensive and then choosing what they wish to view.

ISPs already go way beyond what current law requires in defining what they see as offensive material and then ordering its removal. To my mind they need no further encouragement from legislators. If anything, the legislators may have a job on their hands keeping up with ISPs who are only too happy to censor!

DAVE AMIS
Stanford le Hope
Essex

More screening call

Sir: Morale in the cytology screening service is low, unsurprisingly. At least there is a screening service of sorts. Despite the NHS statistic that half of all breast cancer patients are aged over 65, that is the age at which regular appointments for screening ceases, although it is common knowledge that the mammograms of post-menopausal women are more accurately interpreted than in younger women.

The Government has argued that mammography is available on request to that age group, but how many women know that? Most are under the impression that, because they are not called for regular screening, they are no longer vulnerable to breast cancer and therefore ignore symptoms.

It has been said that an extension of this service would be too expensive. It would also avoid needless pain and ease the demand for terminal and geriatric beds. The continued refusal to offer the service to older women is both ageist and sexist. Old women can be stoic only for so long.

MARGARET KELLY
King's Lynn
Norfolk

Sir: Paul Lashmar (News, 4 August) correctly highlights the crisis in the National Cervical Screening Programme. Cervical screening is the most successful cancer screening test of all, none of which is perfect, and the UK programme has already reached targets set for 2000.

The current crisis is due to two factors. First, the low pay offered to screeners which, after two years' training, is £9,500 pa (£190 per week) for this skilled and highly responsible job.

Second, the recent revelations of mistakes in the programme at Canterbury and other centres suggesting that the test is failing. The truth is quite the reverse, however, and the public should know that these disclosures are the consequence of the implementation of stringent internal and external auditing programmes. It is ironic and unfair that such a successful programme should be castigated for putting its house in order.

DR PATTROT
Consultant Pathologist
The Royal Marsden Hospital
London SW3
Post president of the British Society for Clinical Cytology
Nottingham

Sir: There you go again ("Bad doctors are a dangerous cancer", 29 July) - as if unsatisfactory work in the medical field has always been or could be exposed by journalists and lawyers rather than by the medical profession itself and as if satisfactory practice is a matter of adhering to predetermined rules laid down like the Ten Commandments, rather than a matter of continuous revision.

It was not journalists or lawyers who introduced cervical screening, nor do you appear to understand the inherent difficulties involved or the fact that the best practice evolves in the light of experience. All biology, including its application to medicine, is subject to variation around a mean; and to expect every practitioner to achieve the mean standard is comparable to President Johnson's famous gaffe when he promised, on being informed that 50 per cent of Americans had an IQ below 100, to put it right if re-elected. That he succeeded merely demonstrates that the mean shifts with time. Your attitude to medicine does you no credit nor medicine nor society any good.

JOHN A DAVIS
Cambridge

Name-calling

Sir: I don't care very much which of my forenames or other "names" they call me ("Name the guilty saint in the NHS", 28 July), but the one that really annoys me now is "young man". All names, even pet names, may be true, but young I am not!

MARTIN MOTTRAM
Aged 74
Salisbury



In the fourth of our series on car boot sales, a prospective customer tries out a 50p shirt at a sale in Flixton near Bungay, Suffolk

Brian Harris

IN BRIEF

Sir: Roger Payne, asked what terrible crime brought destruction to Sodom's neighbours (Letters, 4 August). It was small-town sycophancy. As the Bard had it, "Gomorrah and gomorrah and gomorrah, Creeps in this petty place..."

ALAN GRONNER
London NW1

Sir: I was amused to read Deborah Ross's paen to the Cheesecake (Features, 4 August). My children adore these disgusting things and get through prodigious quantities (at approximately 25p each). I cringe every time they open the fridge and look adoringly at

the cheese section). I recently found a two inch piece caught in the washing up. Despite a thorough wash in very hot water, it retained its consistency and texture perfectly. Definitely a being from another planet.

JUDY EDMONDS
Tetbury, Gloucestershire

Sir: Derek Bentley was no sort of hero; nevertheless we should place a memorial to him at the entrance to the Royal Courts of Justice. This would remind those who administer the law that a fair trial requires constant adherence to the highest possible standards of ethical integrity.

ALEC LEGGATT
Farnham, Surrey

The thoughts of a man who's going absolutely nowhere

STARTING FROM next Monday I shall be away for three weeks, and already the carpentry unit in my workshop is hammering away at the large hand-carved sign reading "Miles Kingston is away on holiday" which it is customary for columnists to hang outside their houses during their absence.

However, I have noticed that this tends to lead to a rash of breaking and entering during my absence, so this time I shall leave a different sign behind, saying: "Miles Kingston may not be writing his column at this moment, but he is certainly at home, yes sirree, he is standing behind the front door with a poker behind his back ready to deal with thieves, so go next door and ransack them, they have a really nice collection of china..."

You hear strange stories about

people going away on holiday and being burgled. One story I am often told is that burglars will mingle with people flying out from a major airport and make a note of their home addresses from their luggage labels. It stands to reason that if they are flying out from Heathrow, their home will be unattended for a while, and safe for burgling. To combat this, I always put false labels on my luggage until I get to my destination, so that if a burglar is reading my "home address", it is not my home address at all. In fact, I usually use the address of my brother in Bristol.

The only time this backfired was when I lost all my luggage abroad at Athens Airport, and it was eventually returned by the airline, to my brother in Bristol. He claimed he never had it delivered to him. I don't

believe him. I believe he still has all my holiday clothes and favourite after-shave to this day. Well, I suppose it helps to compensate for all those times the burglars have read my labels and gone round to burglar his house...

Another strange story I once heard was from a man living in Chelsea. He claimed that the police at the local police station were not always squeaky clean, and for this very reason he never went round, so many people did, and told them that he was going away on holiday so that they could keep an eye on his house.

"It is a depressing but true fact," he told me, "that more burglaries take place among people who have told the police they are going away than among those who haven't told them. The inescapable



MILES KINGSTON

I believe my brother still has all my holiday clothes and favourite after-shave to this day

Inference is that the police leak their information to their under-

Now, I want to stress that this was all a long time ago and that if there ever were any rotten police apples in the Chelsea area, I am sure that it has all changed since then, but this conversation did inspire me once to write a brief story in which the narrator tells the local police station that he is going away on holiday, but gives them the wrong dates by mistake. The result is that he is sitting quietly in his sitting room one evening when the window is forced open and the disguised shape of a local Detective Inspector forces his way in.

I can't remember how the story finished, and I don't really want to, because one gets fairly superstitious about this. No matter what precautions you take, you always feel there is something else you could have done. In fact, about the

stupidest thing in the world you can do is write a daily column in a newspaper and then, when you are going away, have the newspaper insert a daily reminder to burglars saying that "Miles Kingston is away on holiday".

So may I take this opportunity of saying that while there may be a notice to that effect in *The Independent*, I am actually staying at home all the time, running my annual sweepstake. This sweepstake is based on which newspaper stories will appear during August, the silly season. I am still taking bets on this. Some stories are clearly emerging as favourites and the odds on these are as follows.

Evening, "Cabinet ordered back as crisis looms"

2/1. "Dolly the sheep unmasked as fake"

3/1. "Two elderly Land Army girls found in hiding in Severnake Forest: 'We thought WWII was still going strong,' they say"

4/1. "Mobile phones do not work in Wales: thousands migrate there to avoid them"

7/1. "Freak tidal wave devastates Swindon"

10/1. "John Birt to succeed himself as BBC's DG, in complicated contractual deal"

11/1. "I am gay bishop's love child" claim

15/1. "Tour de France to be run on 20/1. 'Viagra may cause CJD' scare", etc. etc. Full list on request.

If I make enough money on it, I will be able to get away on my real holidays in September, which will enable me to avoid the real silly season, ie the party political conferences.

20/1. "Viagra may cause CJD" scare, etc. etc. Full list on request.

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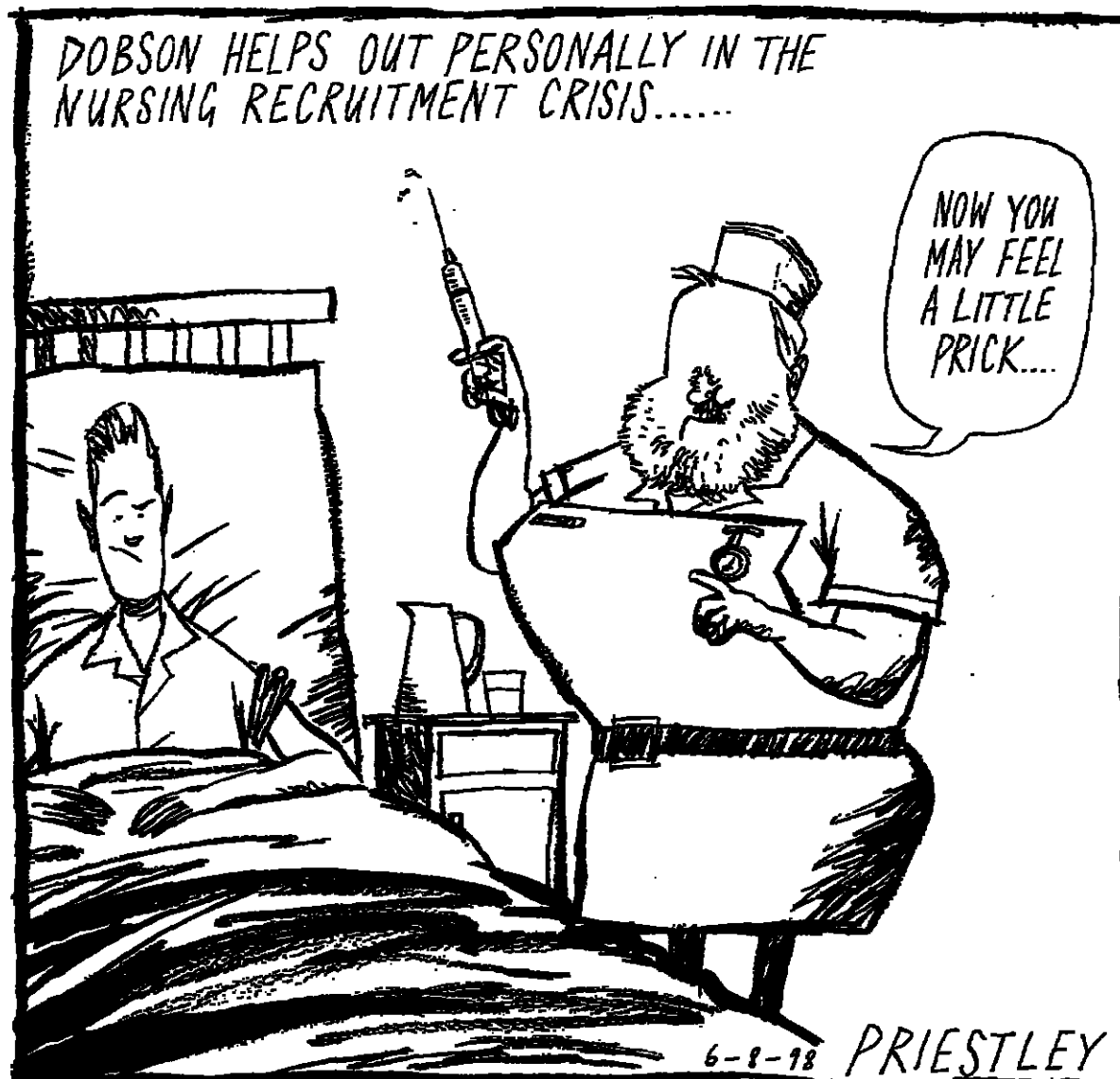
Let's not turn football into a game of monopoly

PLANS TO set up a European superleague are not just about football. This is an issue of money, power and attempted monopoly. The transformation of sport into big business is one of the most striking developments of recent years, and football in particular is now a big part of a big sector of the economy: entertainment and leisure. Economic commentators are currently worked up over the threat to manufacturing industry from the strong pound; they should be equally exercised over the future of the manufacturing of footballing entertainment.

Even for non-football-fans, the objection to the super-league scheme is that it is an attempt to create a market and corner it. The combination of football and television is big money, already controlled to an unhealthy extent in this country by Rupert Murdoch. Mr Murdoch's plans to extend that control to the European level, in concert with Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian media tycoon, should be attacked before they get off the ground by the European Union's competition authorities. At the very least, the British Government should be publicly arguing for the principles of openness and competition. Instead, Tony Blair is tainted by his willingness to back Mr Murdoch's BSkyB - because it is a "British business" despite its Australo-American owner - in that famous telephone call to the Italian prime minister about an earlier Murdoch-Berlusconi tie-up. The fact that Mr Berlusconi is currently appealing against a bribery charge may not be particularly relevant. What is, is the known tendency of both media moguls to renege on undertakings to preserve competition. These are not the kind of business leaders for whom the Prime Minister should be cheerleading.

Sporting leagues are a peculiar economic animal, a cross between a natural monopoly and an independent regulator (of clubs and players). In the US, where the development of sport as big business, and anti-monopoly laws, is further advanced than in Europe, the baseball league has a special exemption from competition law, dating from 1922, and the National Football League has regular run-ins with the courts enforcing what Americans call "anti-trust" law. It would not be desirable, therefore, for the likes of Messrs Murdoch and Berlusconi to "own" European football. (Mr Blair should have learnt this lesson from his dealings with Bernie Ecclestone, who effectively owns Formula One motor-racing.)

This is related to the purely sporting considerations of openness and fair competition. The detailed plans for



the superleague, which we publish today, confirm that membership would be by invitation not competition. Clubs such as Milan (proprietor: S Berlusconi) will be admitted on the basis of wealth rather than talent. One of the glories of the present structure of British and European football is that it would be possible for a lover of the game to start a team or take over a non-league team and take it to the top within, say, 12 years, by virtue of player selection, team building and vision. That dream is especially vivid at this time of year, when all teams are equal and all are full of hopes of greatness. In living memory, Premiership team Wimbledon were in the Southern League. Today, they could win the Euro-

pean Cup and arguably be the best team in the world.

Or, to take an example closer to the heart of Downing Street, look at Burnley. Lifelong fan Alastair Campbell is the Prime Minister's press secretary. Once one of England's greatest clubs, Burnley are up against Wycombe and Macclesfield in the Second Division. But they could come back up, as long as we preserve a system based on merit not money. It matters, then, that football's European governing body, Uefa, whatever its faults, should retain control of any new venture, just as the Football Association did with the Premiership. We must not allow media tycoons to shut the privileged few clubs in their gated community. Have a word with the boss, Alastair.

Prepare now to lower interest rates

MONEY COMMITTEES propose, the markets dispose. Just as the worthy economists on the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England start their two-day deliberations, Wall Street has chosen to go into sharp reverse - dragging the UK FTSE index behind it.

It is a timely reminder to the noble economists that this time their decision on interest rates is important. And not just because of the growing plight of British manufacturing industry. All the evidence is that service industries and the small company sector are also beginning to suffer from high interest rates and a strong pound. If you add to this an American-led fall in the equity markets, then you are talking of serious recession.

It may be that these fears are exaggerated. Short-term falls in Wall Street have been seen before, only for renewed highs to be achieved only a few months later. But this time there is a real feeling that the Wall Street reverses represent two important factors that will affect us all.

One is that the impact of the Asian crisis is now working backwards into Western exports and US growth. The second point is that the latest fall comes in the wake of a growing sense that stocks are seriously overvalued by the current market boom.

Time was when these issues could be regarded as the arcane considerations of rich investors. But we must learn that markets do control all our lives, and that a fall in shares at this stage could have dramatic consequences on everything from pensions to house prices.

The Monetary Committee can no longer afford to see its task solely in terms of UK inflationary pressures. Simply to hold interest rates may no longer be enough. The Bank has to start preparing itself to pull them down rapidly if the evidence of recession mounts over the next couple of months.

Kosovo cannot wait

WHAT WILL it take to force Nato to act over Kosovo? Two hundred thousand civilians have been forced to flee their homes in the Serbian province. This ethnic terrorism must be stopped. Russian and German objections must be faced down.

As Paddy Ashdown argued in these pages yesterday, Nato's leaders must tell Slobodan Milosevic to back off, or face air strikes against Serbian forces. And they must mean it.

Everyone is important - but only to themselves, unfortunately

THREE YEARS ago, in the maternity unit of the University of Virginia Medical Centre, in Charlottesville, daughters were born on the same day to 16-year-old Whitney Rogers and 27-year-old secretary Paula Johnson. But the babies that accompanied each young mother home were not the ones that they had given birth to. Somehow they had been switched.

And switched they would have remained, had it not been for Carlton Conley, the partner of Ms Johnson. Estranged - in the fashion of all too many young fathers these days - Carlton was asked to pay towards his child's upkeep. He was reluctant and began to question the award for the usual reason: that little Callie Marie looked nothing like him. Now, I have not seen a picture of Mr Conley, but to most men it is something of a relief that their daughters do not resemble them. It is better all round that girls look like their mothers.

Nevertheless, so obsessed did CC become that he demanded a DNA test to establish the child's paternity. The test was done and revealed to the horrified mother that not only was Callie Marie not her father's daughter - she was not her mother's, either. Ninety miles away Rebecca Chittum, brought up by Whitney Rogers since 1995, was the real Callie Marie.

By now you are probably ahead of

me. The implication of the Callie Marie case is that this kind of mishap happens not infrequently and is only rarely discovered. All over the world women are carting the fruits of other loins back to cots and nurseries and bringing them up as their own. It could even be you...

I am unlikely to be sued by a Virginian hospital. Ms Johnson has other things to worry about, and Ms Rogers - tragically - died in a recent road accident, so I am safe to indulge in a bit of speculation about how this mishap occurred. And there are really only three possible explanations.

The first is that one of the mothers exercised a bizarre bit of consumer choice and - thinking that someone else's baby looked more appetising than her own offspring - proceeded to switch the name tags that are routinely attached to newborns (usually in the delivery room).

The second possibility is that some third party made the switch for mischievous reasons that are not easily fathomed. And the third is that the hospital did not tag the children at all or attached the tags wrongly. I think you will agree that, of the three scenarios, the third is the most plausible.

Now let us visit another medical establishment, this time in Wales. The Pontcae surgery, in Merthyr Tydfil, like so many other practices throughout the country, recently decided to offer its patients an extra range of alternative services. One of the GPs, a Dr Kevin Thomas, was trained to administer the ancient Chinese treatment of acupuncture, and one of his first clients was Diane Thomas (no relation), a 33-year-old sciatica sufferer.

DAVID AARONOVITCH
The things that are incredibly special to us are simply routine to those who deal with them every day

One afternoon a few weeks ago, Thomas the Sciatica lay on her front in the surgery, while Thomas the Doctor gently inserted 12 long needles into pressure points on her back, neck, feet, legs and arms. The procedure complete, Ms Thomas was told that she should rest for 40 minutes, after which Dr Thomas would return and remove the needles.

Forty minutes came and went. Ms Thomas probably fell into a light doze. And then another 40 minutes went by. By which time the sufferer was growing both restive and uncomfortable. But what was she to do? She was naked in front and covered in ingrowing prickles at the back. There was no question, therefore, of her getting up and walking into the crowded waiting room. Ms Thomas waited some more.

By 6.15pm she could hear the muffled sounds of the health centre

staff preparing to go home. But, for all her cries and lamentations, they could not hear her. The windows were shut, the doors were bolted, the lights turned off and the building deserted - save for the human porcupine in Dr Thomas's office.

This story has a happy ending. An hour or so after the last receptionist had driven off in the last Micra, the cleaners arrived. Their surprise at finding a heaving pink pin cushion may be imagined. Even then Ms Thomas's tribulations were not entirely at an end. The cleaners were understandably reluctant to touch the needles themselves, a task that was only completed when another partner in the practice arrived.

So what had happened? It was very simple, really. Dr Thomas had been called out on an emergency, and had forgotten all about the woman with the needles in her back. Only much later, as the cleaners were calling for help, did he recall (with, I guess, a rather unpleasant jolt), that he had unfinished business.

How can cases such as this, and that of Callie Marie, be possible? They can happen because the things that are incredibly special to us - death, birth, moving house, divorce, acupuncture and so on - are simply routine to those who deal with them every day. There is - very often - an extraordinary mismatch between the importance that we attach to an event and its significance for others.

Take an operation. Most of us do not have many operations. I have only had one, and it was a silly little op. But I was as keenly aware of what could go wrong with it as any bad flier is of all the bits of wiring and hydraulics that

can possibly lead to air disaster. The anaesthetist might get his measurements wrong, the surgeon might be menopausal. I only have one body, and this is it.

But from the surgeon's point of view, I am the fifth hump of snoring flesh that has passed this way today. We may have exchanged four words earlier, none of them interesting. There is no reason to make any more or less effort with this incision and this suture than with all the others. It has been (yawn) a long day.

Likewise with your routine screening. Routine for them, not for you. They have been screening and screening, month in, month out. Millions of breasts, billions of ovaries, infinities of cervixes. Yet every time you go along, you are aware of the horrid particularity of the situation. This process is to discover whether you have cancer and, if you have, to treat it as quickly as possible.

But they aren't blasé about the Royal Family, are they? I bet everyone knows about it the second that Princess Anne's mammogram is pinned to the hospital wall. Elton John is unlikely to be operated upon by someone who regards the removal of his appendix as just another blob in the bowl.

The answer, and we all know it, is to make a fuss, make ourselves stand out, to be memorable somehow. We have to make the surgeon want to do his or her very, very best with us; to impress upon the holiday rep the great difference between our situation and that of the others stranded in Bahrain. Pomposity is one way, bribery is another. Humour, I hope, is the best of all.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The new world of homosexuals is not my scene. They try to persecute heterosexual men like me."
Lord Rothermere,
newspaper proprietor

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favourable."
Seneca 'The Younger',
Roman philosopher and poet



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MOST SIGNIFICANT was investors' sudden recognition that earnings growth, the engine that powers stock prices, is deteriorating at even the biggest and best-known American companies. Combine this with an increasingly narrow stock-market advance - more stocks going down than up - and the outlook for stock prices turns decidedly bearish. Painful though any fall in stock prices can be, some money managers who had been quietly taking stock-market profits

were unsurprised by the move. To them, such a drop was not a matter of if, but when.
New York Times

THERE IS unease over the Clinton investigation, fears that the deflationary pressures emanating from Asia could halt the US economy's growth, and concerns that corporate profits will fail to meet expectations. More legitimate concerns are that companies' earnings do not support the high prices of their shares,

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to the plunge in the Dow Jones Industrial Average



and that the financial crises in Asia would spread.
Herald Tribune

WALL STREET'S summer rally is turning into an early fall

Stock prices plummeted on Tuesday, marking the fifth consecutive day of declines that have erased half the year's gains. Fears about economic turmoil in Asia are driving

stocks down, as are disappointing earnings reports from corporate America. One stock analyst said the market is falling because stocks have simply grown too expensive.
Chicago Sun-Times

THE MARKET should be worried about the Asia crisis, but not this worried. I don't think, in itself, it is a reason for this kind of aggressive selling. It reminds me of last fall, when the Asia problem expanded beyond Thailand. Asia will

have an impact on some industries, but other sectors will remain mostly unaffected. I would call this a Swiss cheese economy: solid in places and gaps elsewhere. Admittedly, you have to watch out where Asia is going to hurt earnings. My short-term view is a probable rebound in many prices. In my experience, when you see big, broad declines like this, where there is not a fundamental problem, you get a recovery in prices.
G.R. Heebner, Boston Globe

PANDORA

THERE IS every need, it appears, for Alastair Campbell's drive for greater coherence in the Government Information Service. During last week's reshuffle, one MP tried to find out who the new minister responsible for disability issues was. The Department of Social Security thought it might be Stephen Timmins; the Department of Employment thought it might be Andrew Smith, or Margaret Hodge; while the office of the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett, seemed blissfully unaware of the reshuffle. Finally it was Blunkett's private office who rang the exasperated MP to say that it was in fact Margaret Hodge, albeit temporarily, who was the new minister dealing with disability issues. Government Information Service? GIS? A clue, more like.

WHEN JEFF Rooker, Agriculture Minister, was asked by the MP for Glasgow Maryhill what assessment he had made of the benefits to developing countries from fair trade in bananas, was there an undeclared conflict of interests going on? Pandora is assured that the questioner - Maria Fyfe MP - is entirely unrelated to Fyfe, one of the world's largest banana growers. "They're spelt differently," Fyfe's secretary explained rather tersely. Never in the field of human bananas have so few smiles been raised.

AFTER THE adventures of Mulder (below) and Scully, are the activities of "Area 51", the secret military base in the US, so secret anymore? An item by the American News Service, Scripps Howard, due to go out this weekend documents the known activities of the base, which has done so much to fuel the fire of science fiction, including *The X-Files*. Area 51 employs 1,850 civilian workers according to



Scripps. Aside from the odd alien hostage, Area 51's actual known duties include warning spacecraft against threats of collision and operating military and navigation satellites. Oh yes, and there's that other extraterrestrial duty of aiding US Customs by tracking aircraft suspected of carrying dope. Hmm, is the truth out there, or is it just a hazy screen?

ELLIOTT GOULD, star of the original *M*A*S*H* and known to younger readers through his appearance as Monica's dad in *Friends*, has not lost his sense of proportion in the passing years. When asked to name one of his worst jobs, he told *Entertainment Weekly*: "As you know I was once married to Barbra Streisand."

LEGENDARY SCREEN star Katherine Hepburn has helped to further raise the profile of clothing outlet, The Gap, already basking in attention from the revelation that the infamous Lewinsky dress was bought there. Hepburn, who, as the *New York Post* points out, helped to popularise the casual, slack look for women, was shopping in Manhattan recently. Observing a number of young, informal types streaming into The Gap store, Hepburn explained "Oh, I'm afraid this is all my fault."

PEOPLE COULD be forgiven for thinking that Victor Lewis-Smith, television critic for the *Evening Standard*, gives his opinions away at will. Lewis-Smith has never knowingly been under-opinionated, but when a colleague of Pandora called him to get the benefit of his TV "genius", Victor could only give short shrift. "I'm not going to talk to you about some stupid television programme!" he exploded. Oh sorry, but if you think that how do you manage to do your day job?

HOW SAD that at the height of the rucksack - sorry - tourist season, Pandora has not been enlightened by the views of the Lib Dem's most likely London mayoral candidate, Simon Hughes, on this still burning issue. Despite numerous attempts to cajole Mr Hughes to contribute, Pandora's calls have been in vain, with not even a "no comment" emanating from his office. Surely, having the benefit of hindsight on what the other candidates for mayor have said should tempt Simon to come out decisively on this issue? Pandora's door is always open, unlike the door to the tube which of course is frequently blocked by some inconsiderate person wearing a rucksack...

Feed yourself the milk of poppies

HEROIN IS a wonderful drug - a perfect antidote to the stresses and strains of modern life. If you're recovering from a bad relationship, fearing the wrath of the Inland Revenue or just overdoing it on the social front, heroin calms your nerves like nothing else. It cures boredom and quells anxiety, and is much more satisfying than a mug of Ovaltine. It is now the drug of choice for well-off middle-class teenagers with money to burn - and what better place to burn it than on a piece of tinfoil? Hectic job? Eschew the tinfoil altogether and snort some in the toilets at work. Cocaine addiction getting too costly? Easy - halve the price and double your enjoyment by combining the two and making a speedball.

Teenagers have more independence, autonomy and disposable cash than ever before, while club culture, with its use of so-called party drugs (stimulants, uppers) such as speed, E and coke, is slowly dying out. These days, people don't want to be up all night; they need something to bring them down in time for work or study the next day. Brown (or skag, H. smack) is



BIDISHA

For middle-class teenagers with money to burn, what better place to burn it than on a piece of tinfoil?

cheap and - for cosseted suburban teens - a way of getting a share in the hard-boy gangland image that is peddled by mass-market rappers and modish TV cop series without the muckiness of direct exposure to "dodgy neighbourhoods". And being relatively well off means you never really hit "rock bottom" with your habit. Once your savings have been exhausted, there's always your weekly parental allowance, or

heaps of your records to be sold. The reason that there is so much brown in Britain at the moment is dealers are very clever and the police are very stupid. The gear isn't all kept in one place, or directly channelled from a single large source; it is held in very small quantities by a variety of people. When you're trying to score heroin, there is always a middleman. Business is done from mobile phones, and instead of going to collect your little bundle of joy at some gritty flat, you can organise a lovely, civilised handover at your place.

Heroin can be stopped when it comes into the country but, once here, it is found only if kept in staggering quantities in one place, and dealt directly from there. The police aren't very good at tracing dealers; it is obvious when an unmarked police car (always a navy blue Escort, for some reason - perhaps Ford are giving them away free in return for something) is following you, and they are easy to lose. So we can rest easy on that score, as it were. There's plenty for everyone.

The problem, for the authorities, is that they are already doing

the right thing. People are indeed benefiting from the general acceptance that rehabilitation (rather than, say, incarceration) is the ideal remedy for dependence, and from the latest drives to increase risk-awareness among recreational users. But youngsters will always go where their curiosity takes them, provided they believe that what they're doing is "cool". And now brown has gained that kudos.

When Leah Betts died after taking one ecstasy tablet on her birthday, a nation of kids was immediately on guard. The death of the teenage fitness instructor Julia Dawes this week will surely reinforce the message. It will take similar blows to get us to stop taking heroin: a spate of overdoses in top-of-the-league-table schools, or the death of someone whom users see as a contemporary.

Of course, you could say that these wannabe junkies just need a short, sharp shock. This would certainly work: stop-and-search police prowling the streets, frequent body searches at clubs, compulsory drugs-testing nationwide in colleges and universities. But it seems

a shame when the youngsters are having such a nice time.

Drug dependency rests upon having an "addictive personality". Some people try every substance in existence and remain clean; others take one line and get hooked. For all you kids getting ready to try heroin, let me just point out a few things: brown can do more damage in six months than any other drug can do in 10 years. If you don't mind liver failure, impotence, acne, constipation and loss of appetite, then you're ready to take on the social aspects of the drug. Zero sense of personal responsibility will ensure that if you need money, you can steal it without a second thought. Zero human empathy will guarantee you'll lose all your friends, giving you more time to indulge your habit.

And, by the way, brown is the worst come-down drug you could choose. It is a sedative, chemically not unlike morphine, which doesn't send you to sleep but just knocks you out for a while. If you are keen to experience the come-down from heroin, why not try lying on a bed filled with broken glass? The sensation is roughly the same, only worse.

The judgements of Scottish business are what matter

WHEN I WAS heading this week to yet another media interview to explain why the appointment of Gus Macdonald as Scottish industry minister would be of real value to Scotland - to Scottish firms, to Scottish jobs, and to Scottish people - I ran into the head of one of Scotland's biggest companies. "At last we've got somebody who understands business in government," he said, "who understands what life is like at the coalface." Not that in the past we have not understood business in the Scottish Office. But I am happy to rest on his judgement: that we understand it better now.

Those judgements, and the judgements of the Scottish people, are the judgements that matter. Not the protests of our political opponents - in the case of the Conservatives, out of touch and out of office in Scotland; or in the case of the separatists, trying with their usual base opportunism to wrest Scotland in a direction which the Scottish people do not want.

But the judgement of people who matter in Scotland, who care about the fabric of Scotland, who want Scottish industry and Scottish companies and Scottish employees to succeed. Organisations such as the CBI in Scotland, the Scottish TUC, or Scottish Enterprise. They are unequivocal: they know that the appointment of someone to government in Scotland who understands business, and who understands how business can work best with government to the advantage of both, is what Scotland needs. Now, in Gus Macdonald, they have it. And I believe that once the immediate wrong-headed fuss is over, everyone will come to see how valuable that will be.

Let us not kid ourselves. We should all be aware of how competitive business is now and has to be



DONALD DEWAR

From his days in the shipyards of the Clyde, Gus Macdonald has shown his value

in a globalised economy. I am proud of the inward investment Scotland has been able to attract from overseas - companies such as IBM at Greenock, NEC at Livingston and Motorola at East Kilbride, which have become an integral part of the texture of business in Scotland. Or companies such as Cadence, a blueskies research-forcing ground for bright ideas, which will blossom into new businesses - and which Gus Macdonald is closely interested in.

But we have to work hard, at ensuring our policies are right, so that these kind of companies still want to keep coming to Scotland. Just over the border, the tragedy of Siemens' decision to leave the North-east of England is a stark warning to us all. If Gus Macdonald's appointment helps us understand business better, helps us to ensure we do not have another Siemens happen in Scotland, then that alone would be justification enough for having his help inside the Scottish Office.

Not that he needs justification. From his days in the shipyards of the

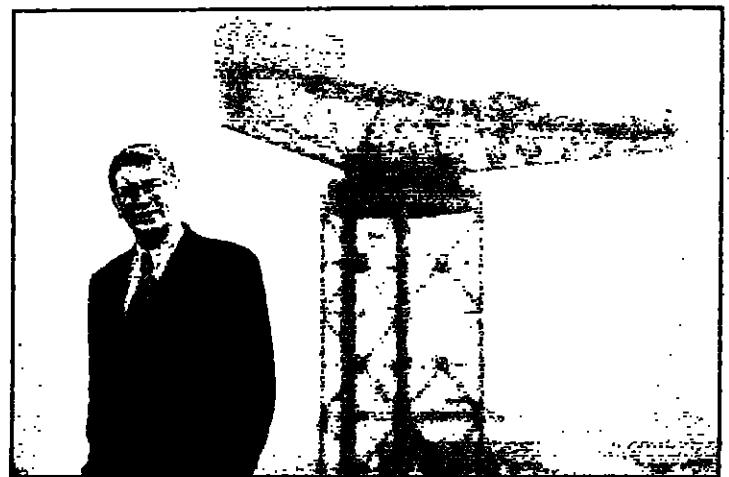
Clyde, to the days when he was appearing on our television screens regularly, to the days when, in running one of Scotland's major companies, he transformed it from a business with a market capitalisation of £50m to one of £500m, Macdonald has shown his value - to employers, customers and shareholders. Business in Scotland knows that: not for nothing did *Scottish Business Insider* name him last year as chairman of the year and corporate leader of the year - the first time that the two awards have been won by the same person.

I know that that is why I wanted his knowledge, his talent, and his perspective on my ministerial team. I am convinced his performance as a minister, working for Scotland, working for Scottish industry and Scottish employment, will lead to everyone knowing that too.

Scotland has a great future. It deserves the best government it can get. It will get the best government we can give it. I spoke some time ago to Gus, as a leading Scottish business figure, about how we could improve the support we as a government give to business. In the course of those discussions, the idea came up of Gus helping more directly. Then, as Tony Blair was considering his reshuffle, and I was rearranging the portfolios of my ministers, I wanted to separate the responsibilities for education and industry which had previously been carried out by one minister.

With our Government putting £1.3bn into education in Scotland alone, and with the vital importance of education to all our futures, I decided that education needed a minister for itself. So too did supporting and promoting industry in Scotland.

Gus's name immediately suggested itself. Not because he is a



Gus Macdonald by the shipyards where he started

friend - he is, but then in Scotland, where the political, industrial and just about every other circle are close-knit, it is not surprising that people know and get on with one another - but because he was the best person for the job.

Now that does not mean, as has been suggested, that my view is that we have no one on our backbenches who could not carry out that job. I take that as a slur - against me, and against our MPs in Scotland, who stand in their corner, and more, with MPs from anywhere. But there is no doubt that in the modern business world we need the view - the direct view - of modern business.

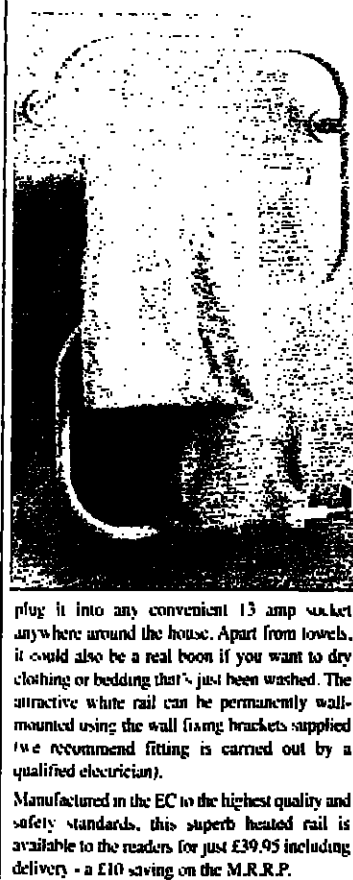
New Labour is now the party of business, and by and large, business backs the New Labour government. That is good: it is important for the strength of our economy and of our country that business and the Government work closely together to promote prosperity. But it is a relationship we need to look at and nurture if Scotland is to benefit fully.

In government, Tony Blair has been imaginative, drawing in people

from the wide range of support New Labour enjoys. Business has contributed many of these - Cranfield University estimates that there are more than 350 key business leaders working on government task-forces on a wide range of vital economic and business issues. But not just taskforces: business leaders are now in government as special advisors, civil servants and ministers. Their expertise and experience has been valuable, and will continue to be so.

I am certain that will be the case with Gus Macdonald. As a man who likes clear language, let me be plain about this. We are lucky to have in government a businessman of Gus Macdonald's success and ability. To have that success and that ability applied in government, working on behalf of Scotland for Scotland, is precisely what we were elected - in Scotland and across the whole country - to do. I am determined to live up to that trust.

The writer is the Secretary of State for Scotland.

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Education is the global priority

AS PRESIDENT, I have had the privilege of visiting schools around the world and around the world. Wherever I have been, whether in a village in Uganda or a poor neighbourhood in Rio de Janeiro, a town in California or an inner-city school in Chicago or Philadelphia, I always meet teachers whose dedication to their students is nothing short of heroic. For those people, teaching is not a job, but a mission.

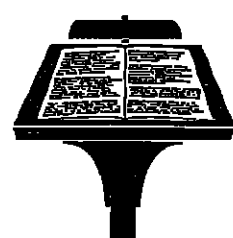
We are living in an era of unprecedented hope and possibility, but profound challenge. A technological revolution is sweeping across the globe. It is changing the way we live and work and relate to each other. It is blinding our economies closer together. It is making our world smaller.

Today, 100 million people are logging onto the Internet. In just three years, that number will be about 700 million. With all these changes come new challenges. We know that with technology advancing at rapid speed, the best jobs and the best opportunities will be available only to those with the knowledge to take advantage of them. We know that if we do

not take action, dangerous opportunity gaps between those people and those nations who have these skills and those who do not have them will grow and deepen. The best way to strengthen democracy, to make the most of the possibilities, and to do the best job of meeting the challenges of the 21st century is to guarantee universal, excellent education for every child on our planet.

Where once we focused our development efforts on the construction of factories and power plants, today we must invest more in the power of the human mind, in the potential of every single one of our children. A world-class education for all children is essential to combating the fear, the ignorance, the prejudice that undermine freedom all across the globe today. It is essential to creating a worldwide middle class. It is essential to global prosperity. It is essential to fulfilling the most basic needs of the human body and spirit. That is why the 21st century must be the century of education and of the teacher.

We are working very hard with nations all across the world through our AID pro-



PODIUM

BILL CLINTON

From a speech by the President of the United States to the Education World Congress at the Washington Hilton

grams - our Agency for International Development - and in other ways. At the recent Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, we reaffirmed the commitment of the Americas to work in common on the training of teachers and the development and dissemination of not only technology, but educational software. When I was in Africa, I reaffirmed the focus of many of our aid programs to be on education. We

announced in South Africa a project with our Discovery Channel to try to bring technology and the benefits of it to small African villages. We are working in Bosnia and Croatia to help the students there learn about democracy so that they can preserve what so many have given so much to create - a real sustainable peace in a multi-ethnic democracy. All across the world America has an interest in seeing education improve.

One-third of the adults in the world are illiterate today, two-thirds of them live in the poorest countries. We are doing better. The literacy rate was only 43 percent in 1970. The percentage of our children going to school in 1970 across the world was only 48 percent. Today, it's 77 percent, at least in the primary school years. I still visit countries where basic primary education for girls is still a dream in some places. That must not be.

If we want to see these societies elevated, if we want to see the economies grow, if we want to see families made whole, we must educate all our children, the boys and the girls alike. Here in America, we

have recognised the increasing importance of a college education to our position in the global economy. We have made the first two years of college virtually free, with a tax credit we call the Hope Scholarship. We are working to establish high national standards to ensure that our children, from the earliest years, master the basics.

I believe in a global economy. We are working hard to prepare our children for the demands of the Information Age by connecting every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000 and by training teachers in these new technologies.

In all my visits at home and abroad, I have found out that you can learn a lot about a country's future by visiting its public schools. Does every child have the same opportunity to learn? Are they engaged by patient, well-trained and inspiring teachers? Do they have access to the materials they need to learn? We have to build a future together where the answer to all these questions is "yes" in every community, in every nation. I know this: will happen if teachers lead the way.

20/11/98 1550

The US way of business



HAMISH MCRAE
No one could conceive of an American Treasury Secretary attacking the salaries of top US business people

IF BRITISH business is upset with Labour about interest rates and sterling, think what it will be like if Wall Street jitters herald a world recession.

It has been a bad few days for the Government's relationship with the business community. Unsurprisingly it has been gathering the blame for the level of sterling and the threat of a further rise in interest rates. While the Bank of England's monetary committee may be directly in the firing line on the latter, it was, after all, the Government that set the rules under which the bank's team has to make up its mind.

Then the relationship was further dented by the Chancellor's attack on British management, which he blamed for the fact that our productivity seems still to be lagging behind that of France or Germany. This may be factually correct, but, since Britain has been narrowing the gap over the last 18 years, maybe the Chancellor ought to be blaming the managements of the 1960s and 1970s rather than the present lot. However, Gordon Brown (oddly for a son of the Manse) forgot about the Church of Scotland's injunction that I was taught: that one should not "speak the truth out of season". British managers were less than thrilled at being lectured by someone who had never worked in industry.

Finally, when the Government does try to narrow the gap between the business community and itself by bringing business people into government, it gets clobbered for that, too. Lord Sainsbury's appointment as a junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry raised the charge that he got his job mainly because he was a big donor to the Labour Party, now the Gus Macdonald appointment in Scotland leads to squeals of "cronyism", and all this comes on top of all the attacks made on Lord Simon, the former head of BE, for the handing of his trust fund following his appointment to government.

The poor old Government might be forgiven for feeling that it is damned either way: accused on the one hand of knowing nothing about industry and on the other of cronyism when it brings in top-of-the-range businessmen to correct the imbalance. Something rum is clearly happening: what is it?

I think two things are happening. The first is that the Government is trying to nudge the relationship between itself and business towards the American pattern but cannot quite think itself fully into a transatlantic mindset. The second is that the business community knows intellectually that the relationship between itself and British governments has changed radically, but again it cannot quite think itself into a new frame of mind.

The rethink of the relationship between government and business was absolutely central to the new Labour reforms. The Blair/Brown view was that, if the key reason why Labour kept losing elections was personal taxation, the key reason why Labour kept failing in office was its dreadful relationship with the business community. Establishing a better relationship was crucial to getting that full second term in office that Labour had never achieved. The model was America - while the Democrats shared many of the same values as new Labour, they also managed to have a number of prominent supporters in the business community. Labour could do the same.

So, just as it is normal for an American President to bring the best and the brightest from business into the Cabinet, so too

could a British prime minister. In a way, what Tony Blair has done is much more modest than either Bill Clinton or indeed Margaret Thatcher. The US has Robert Rubin, the former head of Goldman Sachs as its Treasury Secretary; Mrs T had Lord Young in the Cabinet. All Mr Blair has done is appoint some pretty prominent business people as junior ministers. In fact the most important thing about Lords Simon, Sainsbury and (soon) Macdonald is that they are not cronies; there are some cronies in the Labour ranks and, if you want to know who they are, just look at who was associated with the late Robert Maxwell. But this trio is untainted. I suppose that being a peer still carries some kudos, but the thing that astounds me is that these people are prepared to put with the flak that comes at them for what is really remarkably little reward - in the case of Gus Macdonald, no financial reward at all.

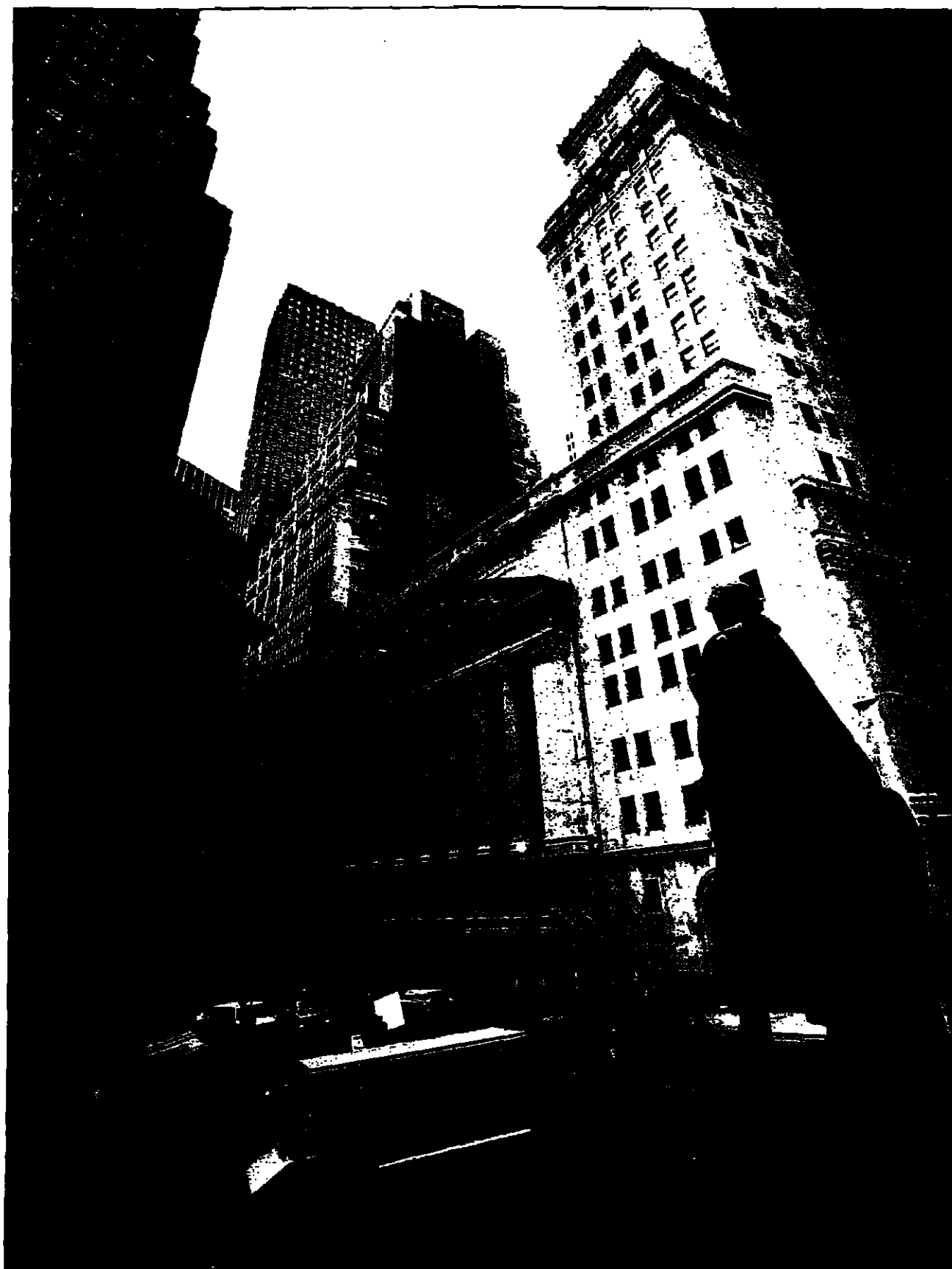
So what Labour is doing would be completely normal in the US and not at all unusual in the UK. Why the flak? Or rather, since anything a government does is quite properly scrutinised by its opponents, why do the attacks seem credible?

I think the answer lies in Labour's less-than-complete conversion to US Democrat thinking. Instinctively, business is still the enemy, and this instinct keeps bursting out. It bursts out in Gordon Brown's periodic attacks on executive salaries; it bursts out in that attack on British management; it bursts out in attacks on the City, including the ferocious attack on pension mis-selling - which, while few would defend it, was not an evil plot but was the direct result of ill-constructed policies by the government of the day.

Ask this question: could one conceive of an American Treasury Secretary attacking the salaries of top US business people? The idea is ludicrous, particularly so since the present incumbent is ex-Goldman Sachs. Yet somehow Gordon Brown feels it is within the acceptable role of his office to do so.

What therefore makes the attacks credible is not their fundamental merit but the dual standard on which the Government seems to be operating. Cuddle your business cronies, bash the rest.

From the side of business, though, there is another and rather different dual standard, which in a way I think is even more corrosive. On the one hand there still lingers a feeling that part of the job of government is to be closely involved in the business community. Some of this involvement is specific: it is its job to organise incentives to invest. Other aspects of this involvement are more general: to frame fiscal and monetary policy to "help" industry. This attitude



From Wall Street comes the US Treasury Secretary and a dramatic fall in the Dow Jones index

Brian Harris

is a hangover from the old days of industrial policy, picking winners, corporatist Britain. With Tory governments you knew you were on your own, but with a Labour one you sort of expect politicians to involve themselves.

This clashes with the new independence, the spirit that proclaims that the success of business people is due to their own efforts and nothing else.

So business people find themselves defending vast salary increases on the

grounds that they have earned the dosh through their brilliant management - and almost in the same breath they squeal to government that its policies are ruining their business.

It is ridiculous - just as the attacks on the new business ministers are ridiculous - but it is there. My worry is that, as the general business climate deteriorates, a relationship which is a bit strained will become truly corrosive.

That climate will get worse; I don't think

there is much doubt about that. Things may not be dreadful, but they will be tougher. As times get harder we will need a thoughtful and measured working relationship between government and business. A bit of tension, sure, is healthy, for the two parts of the community perform different tasks. But if things deteriorate in the way that they did during the last Labour government, trudging through the downturn will be a much more disagreeable journey than it need be. And all of us will suffer.

RIGHT OF REPLY

LINDA BELLOS



A campaigner against sex tourism says the word 'paedophile' obscures the real problem

YOUR LEADING article on paedophiles not only misses the point about sex tourism; it may inadvertently be adding to a real problem. The sexual abuse of children, at home or abroad, is not done chiefly by so-called "paedophiles". Indeed, I think that we should all stop using this word, whose etymology means "a lover of children".

If there are some men who can be defined as able to realise sexual desire only with children, they are a small, sad and even sick minority. Most of those who sexually abuse children in the UK are married men. Ordinary fathers, uncles and grandfathers. They do not see themselves as paedophiles, and technically they are not; but that does not make their actions or behaviour any less reprehensible.

To continue to use the word "paedophile" when we mean "abuser" is to obscure what is happening in our midst, while we set our gaze at some distant and monstrous outsider.

Feminists have long argued against sex tourism. As early as 1982, a group of which I was a member campaigned against European men travelling to Thailand to gain access to children not available to them at home. Those men, according to our contacts, were heterosexual businessmen who used boys or girls; young, economically dependent and vulnerable. Most of these men will never appear on a paedophile register, because they behave themselves when at home.

Not all men abuse their children, but the majority of children are abused by their relatives rather than by strangers. This is the fact that must be faced, and the longer the word, and the idea, of "paedophile" is used, the longer this society will fail to tackle a real problem.

The hobby horse of race war

THE IDEA of global race conflict, argues Frank Furedi, has been a paramount but mostly hidden theme of international relations throughout the 20th century. Western, especially US and British, foreign policy has waged a "silent race war", maintaining an embarrassed public silence about racial issues, but in private obsessed by them. Western policy-makers and pundits were guiltily convinced that anti-colonial protest, the rise of the Asian powers, Civil Rights campaigns, and the Communist use of the race card in Cold War propaganda, were all riding a global wave of racial revenge against white domination.

Furedi believes that, in response, the Western powers moved slowly away from their Victorian assumption of racial superiority. They shifted first to a defensive "racial pragmatism", then to petulant claims that it was the rebellious victims who were spreading racial conflict. Next, in the Sixties, came a belated and grudging acceptance of the idea of racial equality. Now, after the Cold War's end, comes a new solution,



THURSDAY BOOK

THE SILENT WAR: IMPERIALISM AND THE CHANGING PERCEPTION OF RACE
BY FRANK FUREDI, PLUTO PRESS, £14.99

to rehabilitate the West's colonial past and justify its imperialist present. This is the effort to highlight and even invent the failures - from corruption through economic stagnation to genocide - of newly independent Third World states.

Furedi's is a stimulating and bold argument from a very able, if sometimes dogmatic historian. It is flawed, though, by its tendency to draw sweeping conclusions from a rather narrow range of evidence, and by nagging inconsistencies and gaps in the detail of his reasoning. But there's a wider aspect to Frank Furedi's work on this subject. He is the main intellectual in-

spiration for a substantial group of writers on race and international politics connected to the Revolutionary Communist Party and to its glossy magazine, *Living Marxism*.

In the pages of *Living Marxism* and other places where RCP associates publish, one finds his arguments so closely repeated, in such similar language, that it is tempting to suspect that a dozen or more bylines are in fact all pseudonyms for Frank Furedi. Actually, they're not: I have met some of these writers in their quite distinct flesh, though not all write under their real names. Yet the sheer homogeneity and conformism of the arguments (even Furedi's key phrase, "the silent race war", is repeatedly used) leave one wondering where the individual thinker ends and the party line begins.

The shared conviction of the RCP is that pretty much all of contemporary politics, including the manipulation of ideas about race and nation, is the fault of Western imperialism. It is a clear and simple idea, which gives its devotees a ready-made explanation for everything that happens in the world. If the mainstream media blame Serb extremists for the carnage in Bosnia, and Hutu ones for that in Rwanda, then they must be covering up for imperialist plots in those countries. Moreover, the Serbs and the Hutu must be unfairly maligned; indeed, stories of genocide in Bosnia must be fabrications.

If the papers are full of stories encouraging us to worry about child abusers on the streets or dangerous additives in our food, this must be a grand conspiracy to distract us from the real problems of global capitalism and imperialism (Furedi devoted his last book to that theme). If Green ideas have an ever bigger place in public consciousness, even in conservative newspapers and corporate boardrooms, this must reflect an irrational, anti-science worldview, which in turn must serve the interests of global capitalism. Did the Western media cry out with



Mandela faces 'the silent war' Max Nash

one voice against the judicial murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa in Nigeria? Well, in *Living Marxism*'s eyes, not only must the outcry have been hypocritical, but Saro-Wiwa was probably guilty as charged by the military thugs who hanged him.

The pity of it is that, across all these areas, a good case is being spoiled by wild overstatement. Furedi and his co-thinkers are on strong ground when they complain that many Western liberals now embrace a comfortable amnesia about imperialism and take a horribly smug comfort in blaming the Third World for all its own ills. They are right, too, to damn much of the contemporary Left for its abandonment of Enlightenment rationality, its collapse into a kind of spineless relativism. At best, the *Living Marxism* take on race and imperialism, when allied to serious historical investigation, produces really powerful analyses - as with Kenan Malik's work, or the best of Furedi's. At its crudest, though, it degenerates into strident tub-thumping, paranoid conspiracy-mongering, and - as in some of its advocates' commentary on Bosnia - into apologetics for mass murder. Furedi himself usually avoids the worst excesses. But writers must take some responsibility for the way their admirers use their ideas, and here *The Silent War* is in some very questionable company.

The reviewer's book *Afrocentrism: mythical pasts and imagined homes* is published by Verso

STEPHEN HOWE

THURSDAY POEM

MONOPOLY
BY PAUL FARLEY

We sat like slum landlords around the board
buying each other out with fake banknotes,
until we lost more than we could afford,
or ever hope to pay back. Now our seats
are empty - one by one we left the game
to play for real, at first completely lost
in this other world, its building sites, its rain;
but slowly learned the rules or made our own,
stayed out of jail and kept our noses clean.
And now there's only me - sole freeholder
of every empty office space in town,
and from the quayside I can count the cost
each low tide brings - the skeletons and rust
of boats, cars, hats, boots, iron, a terrier.

Our poems this week come from volumes competing for this year's Forward Prizes, which will be announced on 7 October. Paul Farley's book *The Boy from the Chemist* is shortlisted for the Best First Collection award

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Richard Dunn

RICHARD DUNN was one of the last great proponents of public service broadcasting in commercial television, and will be remembered most for his defence of the ITV system against the depredations of the Thatcher government in the late 1980s and his defiance against the same enemy over Thames Television's controversial documentary *Death on the Rock* in 1988.

Ironically, for a charming, diplomatic and much-liked man, almost all of his years in power were about confrontation and adversity – but then, as he often told anyone who would listen, he did win a boxing Blue at Cambridge.

He joined mainstream broadcasting at Thames from a local cable company, Swindon Viewpoint, which he had managed in the early 1970s. A tiny operation, which he described as "one man and his dog – and luckily, his future wife", Swindon Viewpoint was a largely happy experience, made more so by bringing him together with Jigga, who was first his assistant, then his wife, and ultimately his most profound supporter and champion.

It gave Dunn a chance to learn about the business of television from its basics and also brought him into contact with Howard Thomas, then chairman of Thames Television, ITV's figurehead company.

Thomas, determined to find room for the 34-year-old Dunn at Thames, invented a role for him as assistant to Jeremy Isaacs, the much-respected Director of Programmes. Within two years Dunn had become Director of Production, responsible for the company's technological programme-making resources and personnel.

He immediately encountered the frustrations of union management, the complexities of which had defeated ITV companies throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. At that time it was easier – and cheaper – to concede militant demands than to fight and risk the chance of being taken off air, an ultimate deterrent that unions like ACTT and NATKE were never reluctant to offer.

Dunn, still new to ITV, and fresh from the unconfined working practices of Swindon Viewpoint, was determined to bring sense and flexibility to Thames and developed a strategy to bring it about. By the

summer of 1984, he had put together the necessary pieces to implement the strategy – a resolute board led by Bryan Cowgill, a stockpile of programming, new easy-to-use transmission equipment and a management team trained to use it.

Confrontation did not have to be sought – it was offered by the unions on a weekly basis. Dunn simply selected the right issue and the right time, and let the ACTT lead themselves out of the building and on to the street.

Thames's first emergency transmissions stunned the strikers, not just outside Thames's Euston headquarters but throughout the industry, and within two weeks, the moderates outweighed the militants, they all went back unconditionally, and a watershed victory had been achieved – some years before Margaret Thatcher arrogantly and

Dunn knew that Margaret Thatcher was, in her words, 'beyond fury', but he argued that a fair society should be able to hear all views

incorrectly labelled ITV "the last bastion of restrictive practices". From the moment Dunn's management service hit the screens, ITV's industrial relationships were never as bad again (except at TV-AM, which fought its own battle a few years later).

Therefore, when Bryan Cowgill left Thames in 1985, Dunn was the clear successor. He inherited a company with a few internal problems, the most significant of which was its owners' reluctance to stay in television. Within a month of taking the new job at the top, Dunn found that Thorn-EMI and Rediffusion had



reached preliminary agreement to sell Thames to Carlton Communications, then primarily a facilities company. From that point on, confrontation followed confrontation. The Carlton bid was seen off – for the time at least – as Dunn marshalled public opinion behind the Independent Broadcasting Association, who rejected the proposal, but Thorn-EMI and Rediffusion's joint lack of enthusiasm for television was a weakness that was to affect Thames for the rest of its life as a broadcaster.

The first result was the partial flotation of the company in 1986, en-

forced by the IBA, announced in the face of general disinterest by the City, and met with some cynicism among ITV colleagues. Dunn, who had begun building a new young Thames executive team, transformed opinion in both areas, and a clever marketing campaign resulted in the issue being 35 times over-subscribed, and a rush of ITV companies following Thames to the market.

Facing down the unions and encouraging public – albeit partial – ownership should have endeared Dunn to the Thatcher administration, but by 1987 the natural politi-

cal distrust of broadcasters had been focused by Professor Alan Peacock on to ITV. His committee's proposals had been meant to deal with advertising on the BBC. Instead, they included such radical suggestions as the auctioning of ITV franchises to the highest bidder, which appealed to the Prime Minister's sense of fair play, and she and her ministers set about systematically rubbing salt in the wound.

ITV then as now a collection of voices speaking different messages, was helpless under the attack. In 1988, the companies elected

Dunn as Chairman of the ITV Association, to focus all their attentions on the political threat, and to act as figurehead and spokesman for them all. Dunn united them, however temporarily, and set about the diplomatic confrontation with the style and energy by which he will be remembered.

Ultimately, he and ITV were unsuccessful in deflecting the Government, but then so were the many moderate voices within government, and all chance of conciliation and compromise disappeared with the greatest confrontation of them all.

In March 1988, SAS officers shot three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar. Many sections of the media – at least those not to the right of centre – questioned not so much the correctness of the actions, as the story the Government put out in explanation. Thames Television's current affairs programme *This Week* was among the doubters. *Death on the Rock* found witnesses who offered versions of the events that differed significantly from the official stories. The Government demanded that the IBA ban the programme. The IBA, to their great credit, watched it, judged it to be fair and allowed it to proceed.

Dunn, and his chairman Sir Ian Trethowan, backed their programme-makers totally and publicly, and throughout the nine months of right-wing vituperation that followed, culminating in an intensive independent investigation of the programme, that support never wavered.

Privately Dunn knew that Thatcher was, in her words, "beyond fury", and that Thames's resistance to her view must have some effect, but he defended the opinion that a fair society should be able to hear all views, and believed that his programme-makers had acted properly and professionally – a view that was substantiated in the findings of the Independent Windlesham Inquiry.

He knew that the affair had hardened Thatcher's views of ITV's discipline, and later publicly spoke about the effect it had on her 1990 Broadcasting Bill. But equally, he knew that his defence of the programme and his team had been correct and he never regretted it.

Three years later, Thames was the biggest and most visible loser in

the new franchise system, outbid by Carlton in an auction that allowed no consideration of Thames's impressive achievements. A thousand of Dunn's staff lost their jobs. Dunn lost his biggest battle.

However, he and his truncated team achieved what had never been done before – survival after the loss of franchise, as Thames became Britain's largest independent producer, with programmes sold to all the UK's major broadcasters, and several of the satellite and cable channels as well.

Two of them, UK Gold and UK Living (now UKTV and Living) were born from discussions Dunn initiated the month after the franchise loss was announced. They were start-up channels, in which the new Thames invested time, effort, programmes and facilities – but no cash.

When Pearson, the media group that bought Thames in 1993, sold its stakes in the two channels early this year, they realised in excess of £70m. This profit gave Dunn, no longer part of the company, almost as much pride and pleasure as another major investment Thames made under his leadership. Thames's stake in SES, the owners of the Astra satellite system, realised a profit of almost £200m between 1987, when it was taken, and earlier this year, when it was sold.

Richard Dunn took pleasure in those business successes, and in the network of friends and colleagues around the industry, especially those with the Thames connection. However, most of his life's pleasure and his pride was taken in his family – Jigga, Andrew, William and Elizabeth.

Roy Addison

Richard Johann Dunn, television executive: born 5 September 1943; Writer and Producer, Associated British Pathé 1967-70; Executive Producer, EMI Special Films Unit 1970-72; managing director, Swindon Viewpoint Ltd 1972-76; Director of Production, Thames Television 1981-85, chief executive 1985-95; managing director, Pearson Television Holdings 1993-95; CBE 1995; executive director, News International Television 1995-98; married 1973 Jigga Gaynor (two sons, one daughter); died Windsor, Berkshire 4 August 1998.

Ronnie Boon

IF EVER a man went down in his country's sporting history for one particular moment of inspiration it was surely the former Wales and Cardiff rugby union wing Ronnie Boon.

It was 1933 and Wales had never beaten England at Twickenham in nine previous attempts. That year, though, it was to be different. England led 3-0 at half time in front of a then record crowd of 64,000 that included the Prince of Wales.

Within a minute of the restart, Boon was on hand when the ball came back from a maul. His reaction was immediate and his drop goal, then worth four points, pushed Wales ahead and just a few minutes later he crossed at the corner before running around from behind the posts for a try.

It seemed at first that Viv Jenkins had added the conversion and the points were registered on the scoreboard only to be deleted from the record books after the match when the referee, Tom Bell of Ireland, said that he had disallowed the goal. It mattered little. Wales had won 7-3 and Boon was a Welsh sporting hero.

Born in Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan in 1909, Boon attended Barry County School, Trinity College, Carmarthen and Dunfermline College of Physical Education, where he began his rugby career. He went on to play for Ayr, Cardiff, the

Territorial Army, London Welsh and New Brighton during a playing career that was to bring him 12 international caps.

The controversial match against South Africa at Swansea in December 1931 was among them. Local newspaper reports at the time condemned the decision to allow the match to take place in what was described as "non-stop icy rain" that had turned the St Helen's pitch into a skid pan.

In the *Western Mail* the following

Wales had beaten England 7-3 and Boon was a Welsh sporting hero

day, "Old Stager" wrote: "We saw a travesty of rugby – an exhibition that did the game no good. South Africa deserved their victory, not because of any skilled rugby by their representatives but because the Welshmen were ill-advised in endeavouring to play rugby of the normal variety under abnormal conditions."

Boon's international career had begun against Scotland in 1930 when his speed and tackling quickly caught the eye of the selectors. He played throughout the 1931 Five

Nations Championship campaign when Wales won the title by defeating Scotland, France and Ireland while being denied the Triple Crown when held to an 11-11 draw by England. He scored one of his four international tries in the 13-8 victory over Scotland that year and also scored in the first match of the following year's championship which Wales began with a 12-5 victory over England.

Rugby may have been Boon's major sporting love but he did not

confine his athletic talents to the rugby field. In 1929 he became the Welsh 220 yards sprint champion while a member of the Cardiff-based Roath Harriers and went on to run for Wales. His time of 23.4 seconds might not set the world alight these days but it stood for two years until Cyril Cupid of Swansea lowered it to 23.2 seconds in 1931.

Boon also made 11 first class appearances on the cricket field for Glamorgan between 1931 and 1932 but was unable to establish a regular place in the side because of a

string of disappointing displays that brought him a total of just 229 runs in 19 innings with a top score of 33 and an average of 13.47. He bowled only 10 overs in the course of those 11 matches and it soon became clear that cricket was not his strong suit.

A full-time physical education teacher, Boon was later appointed as an inspector of schools but despite his heavy workload he maintained a strong affinity with rugby and was secretary of London Welsh from 1961 to 1969. When he returned to his home town he became president of Barry RFC and represented the town on the old South Glamorgan County Council.

He was involved in the running of the Welsh Merit Table, which was in existence before the introduction of leagues, and also served on the Sports Council for Wales. He was granted an honorary fellowship from Trinity College, Carmarthen, in 1990.

Ronnie Boon leaves a son, also named Ronnie, and a daughter, Jennifer, with whom he had lived since emigrating to New Zealand in 1965.

Robert Cole

Ronald Winston Boon, rugby player, cricketer and athlete: born Barry, Glamorgan 11 June 1909; married (one son, one daughter); died Waikapurua, New Zealand 3 August 1998.



Outside rugby, Boon was a sprint champion and played cricket for Glamorgan. *Western Mail*

Konrad Syrop



KONRAD SYROP started the BBC's programmes in Polish at the beginning of the Second World War, and subsequently had a long and distinguished career in the World Service.

In 1939 he had been working for two years as the London correspondent of the Polish liberal newspaper *Kurjer Polski*. Shortly before the outbreak of war he happened to meet the Press Attaché outside the Polish Embassy in Portland Place, who told him that the BBC, further down the road, were planning to start broadcasting in Polish and were looking for suitable staff. Syrop agreed to let his name go forward to the Overseas News Editor, Arthur Barker, son of Sir Ernest and the former diplomatic correspondent of *The Times*.

Barker was supervising the rapid expansion of BBC broadcasts in foreign languages. He invited Syrop to come to Broadcasting House for

a voice test at 11 o'clock on Sunday 3 September. The voice test was delayed because everyone was listening to Neville Chamberlain's declaration of war against Germany. There was a further delay caused by London's first air-raid warning, in fact a false alarm.

Syrop and two others were engaged and on 6 September these newcomers, who had never broadcast before, were given a dry run to familiarise them with the mysteries of BBC studio procedures. The next day the first Polish bulletin went out, preceded by an announcement in English, and an introduction by the Polish ambassador, Count Raczynski.

The BBC's Polish broadcasts, like others in its developing European Service, were essentially news, for the most part translated and announced by Syrop. The broadcasts were also used for sending private messages and "musical codes" for

the use of the Polish Resistance. These were played by "Lieutenant Peterkin" of the Polish General Staff, who worked closely with SOE and brought a gramophone record, identified by a code number, to the studio each day. There was also a daily service of quotations from the British press, not in code, edited by Michael Roberts, the husband of Janet Adam Smith.

The bulk of the European Service moved to its present home, Bush House in the Strand, in March 1941. Syrop was steadily promoted. He became a Polish sub-editor and by the end of the war he was a Senior Producer in the European Production Department. He stayed in Bush House, eventually becoming Head of the Central European Service and Chairman of the Bush House Modernisation Working Party. He was appointed OBE in the 1975 New Year's Honours list.

Syrop married Sara Joelson, his Polish fiancée, in 1940, after she managed to escape from Riga. They had been engaged before Syrop came to England and she was granted a wartime entry visa only on condition that she genuinely intended to marry him. They had three daughters and a son, and the family became British in 1946.

Syrop retired from the BBC in 1974, remaining a loyal attendee at the functions of the Bushmen, the cricket club founded during the war, which continues to play matches in the summer and to discuss broadcasting issues at convivial dinners during the winter.

Writing remained an important part of his life. In 1957 he published *Spring in October: the Polish revolution of 1956*. He translated *The Elephant and The Uguisu Bird*, both by S. Mrozek, and wrote two books about Poland, *Poland Between the*

Hammer and the Anvil (1968) and *Poland in Perspective* (1982). He also contributed a number of radio documentaries to the BBC: *The White Divorce*, *The Search for Utopia* and *Maoism for the Marxists*. Since 1983 he had been chairman of the Copyright Licensing Agency.

Leonard Miall

Konrad Syrop, broadcaster and writer: born Vienna 9 August 1914; staff, BBC 1939-74, BBC Polish Service 1939-45, European Productions 1945-69, Head of European Productions 1955-69, Programme Editor, General Talks and Features 1969-71, Head of Central European Service 1971-73, Chairman, Bush House Working Party 1973-74; OBE 1975; married 1940 Sara Joelson (one son, three daughters); died London 25 July 1998.

27/11/2015

Oswald Wynd



A Scot born in Tokyo, Wynd took Scots in the East as subjects for his thrillers

OSWALD WYND was a modest man who had little to be modest about. As Gavin Black he wrote superior and literate thrillers – school of Stevenson and Buchan – which were at the same time witty and clever, and moved at a by no means gentlemanly pace. In the real world, away from the typewriter, he was a man of courage and immense fortitude, whose experiences during the Second World War were not only harrowing but, due to an accident of birth, heart-rending.

Wynd was born in Japan, in 1913, in the foreigners' quarter of Tokyo. His father was a Baptist missionary from Perth, in Scotland, who found himself "churchless" when he arrived in Tokyo in the 1890s – due to the mission having gone bankrupt – and transferred to the American Baptists (in no danger whatsoever of any money problems, since they were backed by the Rockefeller family). Oswald Wynd, thanks to his father's status in the country, had dual nationality, a boon during the care-free 1920s but a potential death-trap only a decade or so later.

Wynd passed his childhood amongst the British and American children of the foreigners' quarter as well as the Japanese, and was educated at the American School. The Scotland of his father was not even a memory, and on a trip to Perth in 1923 he was heard to remark that although Scotland was "very nice" he wanted to get back to his real home in Japan. Ironically, this trip away from his much loved "home" coincided with the appalling earthquake that devastated Tokyo and turned much of the port of Yokohama into a wasteland.

Despite his family's love for Japan, a move was made to the United States in the 1930s, where Wynd attended High School in Atlantic City. Another move saw the family back in Scotland, and Wynd took up studies at Edinburgh University, which was interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

Wynd had a natural facility for language, which was certainly to stand him in good stead much later on, and although he (somewhat inevitably, given his background) joined the Scots Guards, very soon he was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps and, since Japan was now a member of the Axis powers, sent to Malaya.

Here disaster struck. In 1941, with the Japanese army pouring through Malaya and the British army (utterly unused to jungle warfare) in full retreat, Wynd's unit (he was attached to the 9th Indian Division) was virtually destroyed near Johore Bahru. Wynd himself escaped the carnage, but was captured in the jungle within a week and, under interrogation by the notorious Kempeitai, the Japanese secret police (whose brutality was dreaded even by the Japanese themselves) it emerged that he had dual British/Japanese nationality. This enraged his captors, who informed him that he would be summarily executed for treason.

Luckily he was instead imprisoned, then transported across to Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, where he was put to work in the mines. His linguistic skills now came into play, saving not only himself from further brutal treatment but his fellow prisoners in the camp as well.

Wynd was not only able fluently to communicate with the camp officers and guards, but even to a certain extent intimidate and dominate them, thanks to his knowledge of upper-class and court manners and mores, and his faultless and aristocratically accented Japanese.

For his work on behalf of his fellow prisoners and as an interpreter Wynd was mentioned in despatches. It has been said that he was baffled by the Japanese treatment of prisoners (in many ways atrocious and inhuman). Doubtless the happy hours he spent as a child amongst the Japanese would have influenced this view, but he would certainly have known that in the code of Bushido those who resist to the last are a valiant foe, whereas those who surrender are accorded rather less than human status, for to surrender abjectly is the ultimate disgrace.

Wynd's experiences, nevertheless, over three and a half years, were had enough, and, having left Japan after the

war, he swore not only never to return, but never to recognise his erstwhile "fellow countrymen" in civilian life.

Writing came to him out of the blue. In America he thought he would try his hand at a "first novel" contest organised by the publishing giant Doubleday. His novel *Black Mountains* (1947, about a young American-educated Japanese caught up in the war) won him not only first prize, but the astonishing sum of \$20,000, a fortune in those days.

He wrote a number of novels, including the 1949 fantasy *When Ape is King* (only ever published in Britain by the obscure firm of Home and Van Thal, and impossible to find now), but his fame, and to a certain extent fortune, was made by his riveting thrillers – or "entertainments" in the classic Graham Greene sense – writing as Gavin Black and featuring Paul Harris, a young man (in the early books, such as *Dead Man Calling*, *You Want To Die, Johnny?* and the excellent *A Dragon For Christ-*

mas) with a Scottish background making a living out East, and later taking Malayan citizenship as his business prospered. Perhaps like Wynd himself, as he would have liked his life to have developed.

As it was, though he travelled, he was now firmly anchored to Scotland, first on an island in the Hebrides, then to a house overlooking the harbour in Craill, in Fife. He wrote radio plays and a couple of television scripts – one an adaptation of what was later to become his most famous work, *The Ginger Tree* (1977, televised 1989), a bitter-sweet story of a young Scottish girl in the early 1900s who falls in love with Japan and the Japanese, but who is, much like her creator, in the end betrayed by both land and people.

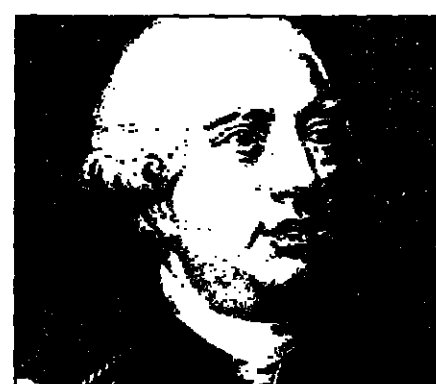
Jack Adrian

Oswald Morris Wynd (Gavin Black), writer: born Tokyo 4 July 1913; married; died Dundee 21 July 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

MARTIN J. WARREN & JOHN C. G. RÖHL

Royal riddles and mysterious maladies



George III definitely had porphyria

IN 1759, the year before George III began his long reign, thousands of people in the West Country were afflicted with a mysterious ailment whose symptoms included severe abdominal pain and mental confusion. The cause of the epidemic was finally traced by a young physician, George Baker, to the contamination of the local cider by lead from the apple presses. A dangerous consequence of lead poisoning, also known as plumbism, is the disruption of the body's ability to make the red pigment (haem) in blood. In this way, lead poisoning can cause a form of porphyria. The symptoms of this can be severe and may include muscular weakness, skin rashes and the production of dark red, purple or even blackish urine in addition to terrible abdominal pain and temporary mental disorientation.

Dr Baker was able to relieve the suffering caused by the Devonshire colic by recommending abstinence from the local tipple. Less fortunate are those suffering from an inherited form of porphyria who are prone to periodic attacks of the illness. Even today there is no known cure.

Porphyria was not classified as a distinct medical disorder until the early 20th century, but Dr Baker was soon to find himself in charge of history's most famous porphyria patient. In recognition of his talents, he was knighted and appointed head of George III's medical staff. In this position, he was faced with the familiar symptoms of acute abdominal pain and mental confusion in the sovereign himself. One can only assume that it was the King's additional symptoms – racing pulse, insomnia, general malaise and discoloured excrement – which obscured the similarity between his ailment and the 1759 Devonshire epidemic; Baker recorded that he had never seen anything like the King's symptoms before.

It was not until the 1960s that the hypothesis was advanced that George III, instead of suffering from some indeterminate "madness", was actually porphyric. In controversial articles published in the *British Medical Journal*, Ida Macalpine and Richard Hunter advanced this view, which was to come to the attention of millions when Alan Bennett made it the subject of his celebrated play and film. Even Bennett was uncertain

whether the porphyria theory was proven fact or convenient fiction. To provide a definitive answer to the riddle of the royal malady, we examined the medical records and correspondence of George III and several of his descendants and also exhumed a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria to subject their DNA to genetic tests. We proved, too, that a recently deceased member of the British royal family had suffered from the same disorder. There can now be little doubt that George III did indeed have porphyria, and that the faulty gene was passed on by his granddaughter Queen Victoria to subsequent generations in the British and German royal families.

Does it matter whether George III was disturbed as a result of psychogenic manic depression or because of a fault in his DNA? If we are to understand his character and his impact on decision-making at an important time for the nascent British Empire, the answer must be yes. The implications of our research are far-reaching. Because his attacks of porphyria were caused not by plumbism but by a dominant genetic disorder, the royal mutation may have affected the lives of millions from the early Stuarts down to our own century. Which other monarchs, in Britain and Europe, were affected, and to what degree? By solving one riddle we seem to be confronted with many new questions.

John C. G. Röhl, Martin J. Warren and David Hunt are the authors of *Purple Secret: genes, "madness" and the royal houses of Europe* (Bantam Press, £18.99).

Gatting to risk all for an overdue victory

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

6 AUGUST 1987

Pakistan lead 1-0 as the fifth Test is about to begin at The Oval. Mike Gatting is confident, but so too is Imran Khan.

AFTER SPENDING the winter collecting enough champagne corks to supply every bushman's hat in Australia, it is now 24 months since an England captain got his hands on a Cornhill-sponsored bottle – a sobering statistic for Mike Gatting to take into the fifth and final Test against Pakistan at The Oval today.

Since the Oval Test of 1965, England have failed to win once in 10 domestic outings, and unless they rectify that here, Pakistan will go home (doubtless to receive whatever their equivalent is of a mass knight-hood) with their first-ever series victory in this country. Pakistan's captain Imran Khan has reiterated his claim that the tourists will not sit back on a 1-0 lead, while Gatting insists that he is prepared to gamble on a 0-2 scoreline in an all-out effort to grab the equaliser. In both cases, this will put quite a strain on natural instinct, but, if they are to be believed, a routing *à la* a hitherto disappointing and ill-tempered series may still be a possibility.

There has not been much love lost between the two sets of players, and the long-standing nonsense over the umpiring resurfaced again yesterday via the tourists' smiling, rent-a-moan manager Hasib Ahsan.

Hasib, who with the backing of his Pakistan Cricket Board has three times objected unsuccessfully to one of today's officials, David Constant, and once to the other, Ken Palmer, announced that Pakistan will be withdrawing their plan to use neutral umpires for England's three-Test tour there later this year.

Last winter they employed

Indian officials for the West Indies' visit, but Hasib said yesterday: "While we still believe in neutral umpires, no other country has followed suit, so there is no point in our carrying on." This seems fair enough, but there is more than a hint of two fingers about it. As for the TCCB's decision to overrule the latest objection to Constant last week, Imran said: "Our players will be taking the field with an open mind."

England, on the other hand, will merely be taking the field with three openers, and Gatting ended speculation on which one will have to wait for one of the other two to get out by naming Martyn Moxon as Bill Athey's replacement at No 3.

The Oval pitch is likely to be the quickest of the series and this may favour Pakistan, Imran and Wasim Akram have been dangerous enough so far as it is, and the dark thought lingers that Abdul Qadir might just be about to produce the goods in conditions that suit him.

Gatting is certainly worried about that, but is also content

with the form of his own batsman. "I was very happy to see David Gower among the runs this week, and I'm confident we have the right team to attack in a sensible way. It will be hard for us, but right at the start of the series I said that Pakistan were a team full of ability."

Imran, who has consistently confirmed his intention to retire after this Test, despite optimistic noises from both Javed Miandad and Hasib about persuading him to carry on, said that ending on a personal high was of less concern to him than the team winning a first-ever series here.

"If we can do it," he said, "it will rank alongside doing the same thing in India last year. We will be positive, and having got into a rhythm after early disruptions with the weather, we're confident."

Imran has declared himself "100 per cent" fit to bowl despite the hip muscle injury that he wanted to try out at Southampton on Monday, but was prevented from doing because of the Hampshire captain's old-fashioned view of tourist games – i.e. that it might be a novel idea to play them with a view to winning as opposed to an elongated net.

ENGLAND (from): BC Broad, ST Robinson, MD Mason, DJ Gower, MW Gatting (capt), IT Botham, JE Emburey, BN French, NA Foster, NV Radford, PH Edmunds, GR Illing. PAKISTAN (from): Shoaib Mohammad, Moinuddin Khan, Mansoor Akhtar, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Imran Khan (capt), Ijaz Ahmed, Saleem Yousaf, Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir, Mohsin Kamal, Ramiz Raja, Tausif Ahmed. Umpires: DJ Constant, KE Palmer.

Martin Johnson

From the Sports pages of *The Independent*, Thursday 6 August 1987

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
hurtle, v. or n.

try, though the *OED* says its origin is unknown but it suspects a derivation from the Greek.

How can we have let such a splendid word fall

into disuse? Was hurling not precisely the word we should all have used of the Tory party's progress towards the last election?

Dramatically ill-conceived enterprises may hurtle towards oblivion, but most doomed ventures move towards their demise as if with a limp – not with a bang but a *hurtle*.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

AZOD: Prince Abnasser Azod, a direct descendant of the Qajar Dynasty of Iran and a prominent industrialist, died in exile in Paris on 1 August. He was 66 years of age. Before the 1979 Iranian revolution he was instrumental in the conversion of traditional land holdings into large-scale agro-industrial sugar refining. He also had a leading role in Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Of a refined and polished character, he retired to France and Switzerland after the revolution and wrote his autobiography. He is survived by his daughter, Roxane. A private funeral was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Wednesday 5 August. A commemorative reunion will be held in Paris sometime in September. The date, time and place will be announced at a later date.

RAYLEY Diana Elizabeth, aged 82, Monday 27 July 1986.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials, services, Weddings, anniversaries, etc. memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000. The OBITUARIES pages e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

BIRTHDAYS

The Countess of Albemarle, former Chairman, the Development Commission, 89; Sir Chris Bonington, mountaineer, 64; Mr Richard Buckle, writer and critic, 82; Sir Michael Connell, High Court judge, 59; Mr Ronald Davies MP, Secretary of State for Wales, 52; Mr Michael Deeley, film producer, 66; Mr Bill Emmott, Editor, the *Economist*, 42; Mr John Evans, Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall, 55; Mr Frank Finlay, actor, 72; Sir Marshall Sir Geoffrey Ford, 76; Mr Andrew Green, ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 57; Sir Howard Hodgkin, painter, 66; Sir Freddie Lake, air travel pioneer, 76; Miss Maura Lester, actress, 75; Sir Donald McCallum, former chairman, Laser Ecosse, 76; Sir David Madel MP, 60; Mr Dom Mintoff, former prime minister of Malta, 82; Mr David O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 42; Sir Duncan Oppenheim, former president, British-American Tobacco, 84; Judge Valerie Pearson, circuit judge, 62; Mr John Reid, jockey, 43; The Right Rev Martin Wharton, Bishop of Newcastle, 69; Miss Barbara Windsor, actress, 61; Mr Charles Wood, television and film writer, 66.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Matthew Parker ("Nosey Parker"), Archbishop of Canterbury, 1504; Nico-

las de Malebranche, philosopher, 1638; François de Sal-gnac de la Mothe Fénelon, playwright, priest and author, 1651; William Hyde Wollaston, chemist and physicist, 1766; Daniel O'Connell, Irish leader and lawyer, 1775; Georg Friedrich List, economist, 1789; Alfred, first Baron Tennyson, poet, 1809; Sir Henry Thompson, surgeon, 1820; Rolf Baldrewood (Thomas Alexander Browne), novelist and author of *Robbery Under Arms*, 1826; Hermann Mendel, writer on music, 1834; Ilya Yefimovich Repin, painter, 1844; Paul-Louis Charles-Marie Claudel, poet, 1868; Leo Carrillo, film actor, 1880; Sir Alexander Fleming, bacteriologist and discoverer of penicillin, 1881; John Middleton Murry, author and editor, 1889; William Joseph Slim, first Viscount Slim, field marshal, 1891; Ruth Suckow, novelist, 1892; Robert Charles Duran Mitchum, actor, 1917.

Deaths: Anne Hathaway, wife of William Shakespeare, 1623; Ben Jonson, playwright, 1637; Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez, painter, 1660; Eugene Aram, schoolmaster, philologist and murderer, hanged 1759; David Allan, historical painter, 1796; John Mason Neale, writer of hymns, 1866; Wilhelm Liebknecht, journalist and socialist, 1900; Joseph-Achille Le Bel, chemist, 1930; John George Haigh, "acid bath" murderer, executed 1949.

Nancy Carroll (Ann Veronica La Riff), film actress, 1965; Theodor Adorno (Weisen-grund), philosopher and sociologist, 1969; Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar, Cuban dictator, 1973; Pope Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini), 1978.

On this day: the Moors were defeated by the Spanish at the Battle of Simancas, 939; the Holy Roman Empire ended after the crown was renounced by Francis II, who became Francis I, Emperor of Austria, 1806; Bolivia declared its independence from Peru, 1825; Louis Napoleon led a rising at Boulogne, but this failed, 1840; war began between France and Morocco, 1844; the Savoy Hotel, London, was opened, 1889; the electric chair was used for the first time in the US to execute a murderer (William Kemmer) in New York, 1890; the Corinth Canal, Greece, was opened, 1893; the Allies landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, 1915; Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel, 1926; *Don Juan*, the first feature-length sound film, was publicly shown in the US, 1926; the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, 1945; Jamaica became independent, 1962.

Today is the Feast of the Transfiguration and the Feast Day of St Hermisdas, pope and Saints Justus and Pastor.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Gilbert Gilkes & Gordon Limited, Kendal, Cumbria. The Princess Royal attends the Royal Naval Sailing Association's annual reception on the lawn of the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, Isle of Wight; as Patron, RYA Sailability, presents the Sailability Skandia Life Sonar Cup and IBM Sailability Award at the Skandia Life Marquee, Cowes Yacht Haven; and opens the new Gurnard Sailing Club, Gurnard, Isle of Wight.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Beasts (G: Crivelli, La Madonna della Rovine (The Madonna of the Swallow)", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Fahmida Shah, "Islamic Art in the Nehru Gallery", 2pm. British Museum: Carolyn Perry, "Who Were the Fatimids?", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Joanne Hedley, "English Portraits", 1pm.

Strangers in their own land

Despite its liberal president and civilised image, the Czech Republic harbours a violent and ugly fascism. By Hettie Judah

After nine years, Robert Miker and his family are still waiting for an apartment. In the meantime, the six of them share a two-room flat with his mother. The local school has refused to take his daughter, which means she has had to miss a year of education. Last year he and his brother-in-law were attacked by skinheads with baseball bats as they were getting off a bus. His brother-in-law was hospitalised with head injuries.

"I realised that for me and my family there was no future in the country," Robert says. "Our biggest problem is fear. We cannot go out after dark; we can only leave the flat in the daytime."

Robert is an educated man in his thirties, a Gypsy, or, as they call themselves, a Roma, living in the Czech Republic. Last August he and his family came to Britain to ask for political asylum. Although family problems forced them to return to the Czech Republic, Robert still talks regretfully of what might have been: "In England I was happy. I did not see these racist attitudes on the street. I saw how life could be."

The media coverage that greeted the Czech and Slovak Roma as they arrived in Dover last autumn portrayed them as hell-bent on ravaging our social security system, illiterate, disorganised and threatening. Little attention was paid to the country the Roma were fleeing.

The Czech Republic has one of the worst skinhead problems in Europe; racist attacks have been on the up since the 1989 revolution. Roma women and children have been persistently targeted. In the past five years there have been an estimated 40 murders and thousands of attacks.

Josef Sivak, from Most in industrial north Bohemia, describes how his community was terrorised: "Every Saturday evening there come a group of 25 skinheads with arm-bands, torches in their hands and drums. They march through our town and shout, 'Send gypsies to be gassed'. Skinheads almost never attack a group; they wait until you separate, then follow you until you are alone. They mostly target children."

Joseph believes this violence is not merely ignored, but sanctioned by the police. "Sometimes the police are actually happy that somebody beats up the Roma people so that they don't have to do it themselves."

In February a Roma woman was beaten over the head by skinheads who forced her into the icy, swollen river Elbe "for a wash". The woman drowned. Four months later, the charges against her attackers were reduced from racially motivated murder to "extortion resulting in death". The drowned woman was, posthumously and without proof, accused of pickpocketing; the white men involved were exonerated of any racist motivation on the grounds that they were drunk.

Unfortunately, this judgement reflects popular feeling towards the Roma. According to one survey, 45 per cent of Czechs wanted to expel all gypsies from the country.



A Roma family in the Czech Republic: 'Our biggest problem is fear. We cannot go out after dark, we can only leave the flat in the daytime'

Network

Following a happy childhood in a small, mixed community, Drahomira Zizgova began training as a dental technician. "I had a professor who said, 'You have no place in this school, you are taking the place of a white child. All the black pigs should be burned at the border and have their ashes sent back where they came from.'"

Such racist abuse has affected even the small rural community of Drahomira's home village. "When I was pregnant with my first child I went with my husband to a dance in the village. During the evening we were surrounded by a group of about 10 skinheads. We were the only Roma people in the place. The skinheads took my husband. They started to beat him very heavily with a baseball bat. Then some of them took me aside as well and started beating me. All I could think of was how to stop my child getting hurt. I was

crying and crying, and the skinheads were making fun of me. Nobody in the place helped me, even though they knew us and knew we were normal people like them. I was not crying because I felt pain or fear; I was crying out of a sense of helplessness. Even in a community where I had friends, where people knew me well, nobody was willing to help when we needed it."

Outside the skinhead and Fascist movements, official attitudes towards non-Roma immigrants are overwhelmingly positive. Six months ago when a Sudanese student was stabbed by skinheads, the event was treated as a national scandal. Politicians took to the platforms and new anti-racism initiatives were implemented. The high-profile public figures who attended the student's funeral were notably absent when the drowned Roma woman was buried a few weeks later.

These incidents spurred the Roma communities to get organised for the first time. Activists around the country set up community centres and started initiatives to negotiate with local authorities. Top priority was education: it is still common practice for Roma children to be sent to schools for the mentally handicapped, and only 5 per cent attend secondary school.

Chánov, a notorious suburb built behind a sewage-processing plant in Most, is a ghetto in all but name. A group of young fathers from the district have formed an activist group called "Drom" (The Way). Drom's ostensible objective was to break down the isolation of the Roma community and open up future possibilities. "We used to have dance groups and bands," said Jan Vasko, "but after the revolution of 1989 they took all our instruments away. All our life, all our sentiments, all our joy are

expressed through our culture and our songs; if we cannot express our life we might as well be dead."

Roma have recently started appearing on the Czech television news, threatening violent retaliation. "What else can we do if nothing else is helping?" said one Drom member. "Violence creates violence. There is no other way."

President Vaclav Havel and his government oppose racism and promote the peaceful integration of the Roma into white Czech society. All the necessary legislation to prevent racist attacks and prejudice are in place. But they do not seem to be enforced.

"This is not a problem of legislation," said Jana Chalupova, ombudsman for the president's office, "this is a problem of application. I talk to the police and the prosecutors, and I think that while sometimes they are naive, other times

they secretly approve; maybe not of the violence, but of the motivation."

Jitka Gjuricova, director of crime prevention for the Ministry of the Interior, vehemently denied that there was any racism or partiality within the police and legal system: "It is a myth that the police don't intervene in situations of racist violence. The problem is almost the opposite – the police almost fall short of their legal duties because they try so hard not to arrest Romanies. It is completely untrue that there is leniency for racist violence towards Roma."

I was invited to meet Jan Solc, vice president in charge of security and one of the three senior advisers to President Havel. Over coffee and dainty biscuits I politely asked him why the Czech administration was apparently incapable of enforcing its own laws. Mr Solc smiled and quoted the Voice of America radio station: "Our moral capital has collapsed,"

he said. "The repression of the last 50 years has degraded people in their own eyes. For a state of law, for a judicial system, there must be a moral basis to society; when there is no moral acceptance of the rights of the individual, the law cannot be enforced. This is only the start of a very long process."

For the Roma, the process already seems to have taken too long. "I cannot stay here and watch my children being killed like rats," Mr Sivak said. "What kind of democracy is this, if I cannot go for a walk with my daughter in the evening? How can we stay here if it is impossible to live a normal life?"

Where the means are available, it seems likely that the Roma will try to leave: if they are not given asylum in Britain, they will try elsewhere. As Europe is split ever further into states of ethnic purity, it is the Roma who are being squeezed out.

How do I become a children's author?

IF I HAD a hot dinner for every letter I've received from amateurs who think they can write and illustrate for children, my tummy would be so big I would be unable to see my feet. The cheek of it, is all I can say.

It's as if, after putting up a shelf successfully, I were to write saying that in future I wanted to take up carpentry as a profession and wished to construct a cabinet inlaid with ebony, with ivory handles, two secret drawers, and a marquetry top. Or, on finding that I could stagger round the rink on a couple of skates, to declare that in future I wished to be an Olympic champion. The sheer conceit of it.

Helen does not seem to realise that writing for children is a skilled profession and that while almost any chump can dash off a kids' story with pin figures as illustrations, to get a book published is a different matter altogether.

Children's stories have to be written with much more in mind than whether a couple of kids enjoy them. The illustrations have to be beautiful and original – a couple of terms at evening class really is not enough to make a proper illustrator, however talented her sister may be. And if she were really talented, she would have gone to art school as a student and be unable to stop drawing, drawing, drawing.

Children's books have to be perfectly targeted at the right age group, with great care and attention paid to vocabulary. They have to be exactly the right length to be financially viable to produce. Increasingly now, they have to appeal to an international market.

And anyway, as Helen would have realised if she had so much as glanced at the children's section in a bookshop, publishers tend to use their own illustrators with different

writers. Helen would also realise that a great many children's books contain the kernel of an extremely original, intriguing or intelligent idea. It is not just a matter of writing. "Once upon a time there was a great big bear who lived in a wood. When the sun was shining he rolled in the grass and when it rained he hid in his cave, and most of all he liked a day when he could eat as much honey as possible." Yawn.

Of course, I have a personal axe to grind here. I have written 13 stories for children and only seven of them have been published. If it is difficult for me, as a professional, to get stories published, imagine how wellnigh impossible it would be for Helen and her sister.

Unfortunately the fact that her children like them means nothing. Helen's books are almost certainly imbued more with love than with originality, and her children pick up on this. Anyway, small children are as proud of their parents when they achieve something as parents themselves are when their children bring back misshapen clay mugs from school. Critical judgement goes to the winds.

But to end on a more positive note, what about getting the books printed out in booklet form by a firm that does desk-top publishing? It means paying, but it also means that Helen could have lots of copies and give them away to friends at Christmas if she wanted. She could also put them on to the Internet. At least someone else might read them. Highly unlikely, but you never know – it might be a publisher.

What readers say:

I HAVE been a book editor for more than 25 years and have specialised in children's books for the past 12 years. Most people believe that it is

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

With the help of her sister who studies art at evening class, Helen has written some stories for her children which they adore. She wants to get them published, and take up writing for children. What should she do?

considerably easier to write for children than for adults – this is not true. Writing for children is a rare talent and any editor who finds a good children's author values him or her highly.

As the children's editor for various companies, I have always made a point of reading any unsolicited manuscript that was sent in, in the hope of finding new talent. I could not begin to count the number of submission letters I have read that started with the remarks Helen has made. Only on one occasion were the accompanying stories of sufficiently good quality to be presented as a potential acquisition for my company. I am afraid that family approval is not enough.

DIANA BRISCOE

EVERYONE, BUT everyone believes that they can write or illustrate for

children. It is an enormously overcrowded field.

We at the Association of Illustrators run a children's book seminar at least once a year and it is always oversubscribed, despite the fact that it is far from being the best paid part of the publishing industry.

I do not want to put you off because, after all, lots of children's books get published each year, and someone writes and draws them. But do expect to join a crowded profession and to face lots of tough competition before you get published.

And even when a publisher has accepted your idea, prepare for them to tear it apart and practically rewrite it.

Children's picture books are very expensive to produce and can be made cost-effective only if the publisher goes for huge print runs. This means selling them to several different countries at once, so your text and illustrations have to be able to fit in whether the reader drives on the right, or speaks a different kind of English.

You may be the next Roald Dahl (and look how old he was before he became successful) but be prepared for an uphill struggle.

FRANCIS BLAKE
Chair, Association of Illustrators

WHAT YOUR postbag will reveal, I suspect, is that readers of *The Independent* are all literate, talented and unpublished and will be only too happy to depress your poor lady with tales of how difficult it is to get an agent, how the large publishers do not answer letters (even with a stamped addressed envelope enclosed) and how smaller publishers will not take risks with first-time authors.

I am currently hawking my third crime novel around, a triumph of

hope over experience. You do not know anyone who reads for Macmillan, Gollancz or Collins Crime, do you?

Yours in discouragement,
DORIANE POTTIS

GO FOR it, Helen. Keep writing, but not because you want to get rich. Your children's enjoyment and your own satisfaction ought to be enough in themselves. If, later, you get published, all well and good. But bear in mind that even established authors can find it quite hard going to make a living.

JOHN COSGROVE

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I've been married 25 years and have brought up three children, not to mention looking after a lovely but demanding husband. My aunt has died, leaving me a small legacy. I'd give anything to spend it on a world cruise, but it would mean going away for three months. My children are grown-up and have left home, and I have little to do all day – my husband still works – but he was furious when I mentioned it. He said I was selfish, that we have always shared everything and that's what marriage is about. I feel I deserve a break. What should I do? Kay

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from *Interflora*. Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside, Features Department, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk

POETIC LICENCE

OPERATION BRAINSTORM
BY MARTIN NEWELL
ILLUSTRATION: MICHAEL HEATH

The MoD is attempting to recruit media folk to wage psychological warfare against our future enemies. People with TV, radio and advertising experience can apply to the Psychological Operations Unit (Psyops) at Chicksands, Bedfordshire.



Propaganda briefing Chicksands, MoD. Toby served his leitmotif With the green-leaf tea Brigadiers and colonels Sipped in rapt attention As the erstwhile ad exec Outlined his intention: "This," He said excitedly Pointing to the chart, "Devastates the enemy Causing loss of heart."

Tanks designed by Gaultier Kit by Hugo Boss Noddy-suits and gas-masks here Modelled by Kate Moss Camouflage by Fabergé Leaflet drops each Sunday Printed on Ikea flyers

For a sale last Monday SAS, behind the lines Rag-rolls captured houses Give the prisoners mullet-cuts Issue Eighties trousers Jam the soap transmission times At all crucial stages Then drop Colin Dexter books Minus last 10 pages.

"Mega-cool!" the brass hats drooled.

At the Psyops Centre Picking at the sundried toms Olives and polenta

Think you'll measure up to us? Think you've got the bottle? Army. In the phone book. Between Art and Aristotle.

Joe Vito 1:50

tie Judah

Last of a charmed circle

Frances Partridge, last of the 'Bloomsberries', is 98. By Paul Levy

Like the Queen Mother, as old as the century, Frances Partridge is amazingly vigorous. She lives in a first-floor flat off Belgrave Square, small but with beautifully proportioned rooms, painted in strong colours and hung with paintings by Carrington and a mosaic fire-screen by Boris Anrep. While she has no trouble negotiating the stairs, the front door weighs considerably more than she does, and it can be a job for her to open it with her key. Frances is tiny and a little frail, having recovered this year from bad bronchitis and from having been blown over by the wind quite near her flat.

But she has no memory problems; she can make a date without looking at her diary, and we joke that she can remember my telephone number, though I sometimes have to look up hers. She still reviews for *The Spectator*, and has had a distinguished career as a translator. She regularly visits friends abroad, especially in Spain, where she walks and botanises.

As you can see from the dust-jacket photograph of the latest instalment of her diaries, she has kept much of her once-dark beauty. Indeed, only a few years ago, she modelled for Issey Miyake and was photographed by Snowdon. Her voice is reasonably strong, and she is a captivating conversationalist.

Mind you, she has a great many subjects to talk about. As the last surviving member of the inner circle of the Bloomsbury group, she knew everyone. Rereading *Memories*, her 1981 memoirs, I suddenly realised that she knew Wittgenstein, but that in our 30 years of friendship I had never asked her about him. Odd, because she helped me so much

with my book on G.E. Moore, whom she glimpsed while reading moral sciences at Newnham just after the First World War.

On the other hand, in the Seventies we had a correspondence about Noam Chomsky's views on language acquisition. Frances has told me much over the years about Lytton, Carrington, Maynard, Clive, Virginia and the rest of the charmed circle. She arranged for me to meet Leonard Woolf, and I think, Duncan Grant and David Garnett.

On the whole, though, my relationship with Frances is in the present. We talk about our common friends; and she takes a keen interest in the doings of my children. Once, she entertained us with the tale of my younger daughter, aged six or so, finally grasping the enormity of Frances' age: "But you ought to be dead," gasped the child.

She comes to stay with us in the country once or twice a year, and enjoys our Oxford-based social life; but mostly Frances and I go to the opera in London. We share a passion for all sorts of lyric theatre, including a lot of 20th-century works, and a liking for whisky and sandwiches during the interval. Frances eats and drinks little now, but hugely enjoys her food; she particularly relished a lunch of mezzé at her posh local Lebanese restaurant, though she drew the line at tabbouleh, because she found the quantity of parsley "scratchy".

Despite a sunny Edwardian childhood (her parents were well connected to what Noel Annan called "the intellectual aristocracy" that included the Strachey and Stephen families), Bedales and Newnham, and passing her twenties as an independent bachelor girl in Bloomsbury (working at the bookshop



Frances Partridge is a little frail, but still reviews books, and is a keen traveller and botanist

Nicholas Sinclair

owned by Frankie Birrell and Bunty Garnett), life has not been entirely pleasant for Frances.

In 1926, she began living with Ralph Partridge at 41 Gordon Square. An Oxford rowing blue and soldier-turned-pacifist, Ralph had married the painter Carrington and continued to live with her and Lytton Strachey at Ham Spray in Wiltshire. The story is well known, both from Michael Holroyd's *Life of Strachey* and from the film *Correspondence*. The homosexual Lytton loved Ralph, the heterosexual Ralph loved Carrington, and the bisexual Carrington loved Lytton. By the time Frances came along, the Partridge-Carrington marriage had loosened up, owing to Carrington's affair with Gerald Brenan. There were some happy years, but Lytton died in

January 1932; and in March, Carrington, unable to endure life without him, shot herself.

The next year, Frances and Ralph married. They continued to live in the beautiful house at Ham Spray throughout the war, and had a child, Burgo. Ralph died in November 1960; in 1963, so did the young Burgo, while talking to her on the telephone. Frances wrote to me that she and Ralph were wrapped up in each other, "perhaps so much as to be tough on Burgo. It was an enchanting child with many potentialities, not suited by school and growing up a nervous, but original and loving character."

Frances was hit hard by their deaths and the Sixties were for her a desolate decade, as shown by the three published volumes of her

diaries for that period. The current volume, *Life Regained*, is positively cheerful by comparison.

In the many books about Bloomsbury, Ralph has been pictured as a hearty, handsome, not very intellectual, good chap. Though she has not made a campaign of it, Frances is always glad to have a chance to set the record straight.

"The first source of his portrait," Frances wrote in the preface to *A Pacifist's War*, "was his very old friend and rival, Gerald Brenan, whose assessment (inaccurate in my view) was accepted in all innocence by Michael Holroyd in his life of Lytton Strachey, and has 'typecast' him, as it were, in other subsequent accounts."

"He was a very strong character," Frances wrote to me on 1 July this

year, "and extremely interested in people. My 30 years with him were intensely happy. He had a first-rate mind and good memory (scholarship from Westminster - where he was head boy - to Christ Church)."

Ralph, who won the MC and the Croix de Guerre, and became a major at 19, clearly also had a good brain; he was a reviewer for the *New Statesman*, and wrote a book on Broadmoor that is still consulted by criminologists. "So much for what I lost," she wrote to me, and why "I couldn't possibly have taken another mate. But friends - some might think I look too many."

Though life dealt Frances a few hard knocks when she was in her sixties, in her seventies she recovered her equanimity, her optimism and her ability to enjoy life. She doesn't

worry about ageing, not only because she does it so well, but because she had her brush with fear of the future a few weeks after going down from Newnham.

"The realisation of the passing of time, tick by tick, moved suddenly into the foreground of my consciousness and remained as a horrible obsession for several days. True, 21 was not a great age, but I would never be 20 again. Gradually it disappeared, was soaked up like black ink by blotting paper, until in the end I had completely accepted the flight of time as part of the cosmos, and growing old has given me very little anguish since."

Life Regained: Diaries 1970-1972, to be published on 10 August (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99)

The three-letter word that parents dread

Talking to your children about sex needn't be a nightmare. By Heather Welford

DISCUSSING SEX with teenagers should not be difficult for people like me who grew up in the Seventies. After all, we came into our own teenage years at the tail end of the permissive society. We were the first generation to have access to free contraception. We lived it up, until herpes and, later, Aids made us put on the brakes (or so we like to think).

However, airing these issues is still a problem for our generation. Of course we don't want our teenagers growing up in a state of ignorance. But, after the recent spate of HIV cases among young people in Doncaster, what greater warning do we need that parents cannot afford to be prudish about such matters?

This week the Family Planning Association (FPA) is launching a campaign to help parents with embarrassing questions. According to Anne Weyman, the FPA's chief executive, children feel that they are getting too little sex education too late.

Research by Roger Ingham, a psychologist at Southampton University, found that most British teenagers said they had received no sexual information from their parents. This was the case across the board, even among the supposedly open and more educated middle class. Sixty per cent of teenagers in social classes A and B reported zero communication about sex.

Robin, who is 43, has a 14-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son. He admits: "I've never spoken to either of them about sex; not even when they were little, to tell them how babies are made. I think I'd be even less likely to talk about it now. They've just never approached me with questions about it. I don't know why - I've always left it to my wife, and I suppose they picked up on that. I don't even know what she's told them."

It's a similar story for Helen,

who is 45, and her 16-year-old son. "My husband just won't talk about it to him," she says. "I think it's partly what he grew up with - he only had a brother, and his father was from a family of brothers. The men never talked about anything but football and whether to get from Manchester to Newcastle via Carlisle or Leeds."

"I wish he'd talk to our son. I don't get embarrassed about it, and I've tried to talk, but I think he needs a man's perspective on things."

Gill, 17, says: "My mum and dad have never really started what you might call a discussion about sex with me, but I can talk to my mum, female to female, even about really personal stuff. But not my dad. He'd get too embarrassed."

Should we be surprised, then, if teenagers are confused about certain issues? Sean, 17, says: "My dad's a doctor, and he gave my brothers and me the birds and the bees bit when we were about seven. Since I've got older, though, I've got most of my information from friends, but you have to accept that some of what they say isn't all that reliable."

"You sort of learn as you go - you pick up information from different places. If I had to ask about something, I suppose I'd go to my mum rather than my dad. I think he would make something heavy out of it, and my mum would be more willing just to answer the question. But, even then, asking would be a last resort."

This bears out Ingham's results: "In a separate study, we asked 700 parents if they had

talked about a range of nine sex-related topics, including homosexuality, contraception and relationships. With each topic, between 50 and 60 per cent of parents said 'no'."

It is in the face of such determined tight-lippedness that the FPA is trying to shift attitudes. "All the research says that whatever parents do or don't do, they still want to talk to their children about sex, and we know, too, that teenagers want to talk to them," says Weyman. "The trouble is, parents don't have a model to base their own behaviour on. They first learnt about sex from their friends, not their own parents."

The teen-mag format of the FPA's pocket-sized 16-page booklet appealed to the young reviewers I chose. Richard, who is 14, even said that he had learnt "one or two things" - high praise indeed. Although there is something inherently cringe-making about leaflets on the facts of life, a proactive approach like this is better than simply answering questions when they arise. "Children pick up very easily which things are OK to discuss and which things are not," says Weyman. "You might have to take the initiative. It's helpful to start young, so talking about bodies and the way they work is a familiar conversation topic."

It's never too late, though, says Gill Lenderson, of the Sex Education Forum, who is currently advising the Government on its programme to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancies. "Often all parents need is the confidence

and a springboard - such as an issue in a television soap - to get them started. With teenagers, it can even be better to talk in the abstract. Keep your own sex life out of it, and allow your children to explore the topics without sacrificing their own privacy, too."

Lenderson recognises this whole area can be especially difficult for men and boys. "But boys really like talking about relationships with their fathers, and about what it's like being a man, and a dad, in today's world. You can often pick up on things in the news - for instance, at the moment, a father could start talking about the Orangemen at Drumcree, and ask his son what he thinks about it all. Or he could tell him a bit about what his own teenage years were like, and ask his son if it's the same for him these days."

John Coleman, of the Trust for the Study of Adolescence, says parents have the huge advantage over schools and teachers of really knowing their children. "Sex education in school is important, but it can't possibly provide the support and opportunity to discuss matters that parents can. In a class of 30 children the topics raised are bound to be too late for some and too early for others."

Interestingly, Ingham's research showed that, regardless of social class, parents who took a moralistic approach to sex were more likely than families with a "realist/humanist" attitude to have children who had their first experience of intercourse before they were 16 (54 per cent as opposed to 43 per cent). Teenagers from moralistic backgrounds were also more likely to have a short gap between "first fondle" and "first intercourse" and to have a greater number of partners.

Most of us have our own views about sex, and it is understandable if we want our children to share them. Yet research shows that trying to

impose strong views on young people is likely to have the opposite effect. As John Coleman says: "The more open and democratic you are as a parent about this, the more influential you'll be."

FPA Parents Bookbag: 0171-923 5242; Get *Sexwise!* seminar for parents, London, 6 August: 0171-923 5201



Lecturing teenagers about sex may have the opposite of the desired effect

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Blowing hot and cool

The ecstatic music of Pharoah Sanders has been sampled for generations of club tracks, but the saxophonist says he's only just found his sound. By Phil Johnson

SOMETIMES THERE'S just no accounting for taste. The American saxophonist Pharoah Sanders, who's about to come over to play London's Jazz Cafe, first made his name as a sideman with John Coltrane and then recorded a series of wonderful albums for the Impulse label in the late Sixties and early Seventies that kick-started a personality cult that has continued to grow.

The albums' amalgam of ecstatic free jazz with elements of R&B, and of Eastern mysticism with the new black consciousness, later helped to make them among the most sought-after vinyl rarities of the period for generations of British DJs and clubbers. But the Pharoah told me on the phone the other day that he thinks they suck.

"When I was with Impulse, the engineer wasn't right, and my sax sound was never right," he said from his home in Los Angeles. "It was either so way back in the mix that you couldn't hear me properly, or there was too much echo, or I don't know what, but it was frustrating. They didn't get nothing from me, and it was like they didn't want me to be heard. I didn't like that sound at all: it's just a bad feeling when you can't even hear yourself and it's your record date. They're just beginning to get close to it now."

Presumably, the "now" must include Sanders' new album *Save Our Children*, released to coincide with his British live dates, and the second issue (following *Message From Home*) from his recent contract with Verve. Once again, the producer Bill Laswell is at the controls, and it appears to be another concerted attempt to make Pharoah sound hip, partnering him with an African singer and a rapper, and the Indian percussion of Zakir Hussain and Trilok Gurtu.

This may well, as with the previous Verve album, be a case of over-egging the pudding, because the Pharoah, who is still only 57, is hip

enough anyway. He has also been experimenting with African and Indian textures for decades, going all the way back to those famous Impulse recordings. The upshot of all this is a paradigm that illuminates not only Sanders' many albums (almost all of which are good, while few are perhaps as good as they could be), but also the recording of jazz generally. Typically made on low budgets and with an eye – however clouded – on the main commer-

When he plays full-blooded on the tenor sax, the Pharoah, and indeed jazz itself, is justified

cial chance in a hopelessly uncommercial market, jazz records are often the product of some fatal compromise whereby the art of a performer is made to fit into a producer or executive's dodgy masterplan.

Ironically, it is often exactly because of these compromises that much of the best (as well as far more of the worst) of jazz on record has come about. Think of Chet Baker singing as well as playing trumpet; or Chet, Clifford Brown, Billie Holiday, Ben Webster and almost anybody else recorded with strings; Stan Getz playing bossa nova; John Coltrane playing "My Favourite Things" from *The Sound of Music*; Miles Davis taking the plunge into rock and funk; or the producer Creed Taylor's template for Seventies fusion. They may have begun at least partly as vulgar attempts to cash in on a trend, but they ended up as art all the same.

Following the Impulse years, some of Sanders' most successful recording continued to emerge through the same cack-handed

spirit of compromise between high art and low commerce. What later became his great Acid Jazz anthem, the version of "You've Got To Have Freedom" from the album *Journey to the One* (re-released on Evidence), came about when a vocal chorus was later overdubbed on the instrumental track, as also happened with the wonderful "Heart is a Melody of Time". Yet the two Verve albums somehow manage to miss the mark they so assiduously aim at. Perhaps the problem is that they're just not vulgar enough.

For Pharoah Sanders, as for so many other jazz musicians, records are important primarily because they help to beef up the profile of live gigs: these artists have perhaps been misrepresented or ripped off enough times to make a philosophical attitude to their own discographies a necessity. But Sanders live is a different matter and he can be truly great, although – in keeping with another of the governing structures in the career of a jazz musician – he's apt to ration his own contributions to the overall performance rather severely.

But when he plays full-blooded on the tenor sax, and that fierce, coruscating tone fills the room with long-held notes in the tradition of Coltrane (with whom he once stood toe to toe, battling it out on endless abstract improvisations) the Pharoah, and even jazz itself, is truly justified. "For the sound of my horn, I think it's getting there now, closer and closer," he says. "I love to play concerts and festivals, and not too much for clubs, only if I have to. But I like to play in other cultures and other countries."

The rare opportunity to see the Pharoah in a club, in the exotic culture of Camden Town, should not be passed up lightly.

Pharoah Sanders plays the Jazz Cafe, London NW1 (box office 0171 344 0044) from Tuesday 18 to Sunday 23 August. *Save Our Children* is out now on Verve



Pharoah Sanders' musical profile stretches from Sixties' cult hero to late-Nineties' epitome of jazz chic

Leon Morris/Redferns

More than another neo-Gothic combo (just)

FACIALLY, MOJAVE 3's Neil Halstead is a curiously hirsute beast (with mammoth sideburns and deep-set features that bring to mind a kind of Ian Brown/Gaz Coombes hybrid) but it's the resonance of his gentle, sweeping voice that really lays out his charms.

With intermittent nods to the likes of Nick Drake, Bob Dylan and Neil Young, he sings with a calm, country-ish lilt, as the density of the acoustic guitar and the Hammond organ reverberate around him like a rising mist.

With the bass player Rachel Goswell in tow, the duo's progressive transformation from the shoe-gazing sensibilities of *Slouze* is seemingly complete. Her backing vocals add an essential gloss to Mojave 3's wistful introspection, but there is still a tendency for each piece to bleed into the next.

While there appears to be no prospect of breaking the mould, the lack of movement in the songs kind of breaks the bubble. The content's fine, but somehow we never get to finish the story.

POP

LOCUST
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
UNION

As a prologue to the appearance of Locust, the stage lights dim and looped video samples begin to appear on the suspended screen: Joni Mitchell is spliced with the sensual Asian tones of the ex-Monsoon singer Sheila Chandra, and mixed with trance-like beats to create a brain-numbing opener.

As the singer Zoe Niblett emerges, the cut-up screen images multiply into a whole range of artists – Noel Gallagher strumming a guitar, Peter Hook hammering away at his low-slung bass, Lennon and McCartney mouthing the refrain from "All You Need is Love", Miles Davis with lips pursed to his trumpet – as Locust's main-man Mark van Hoen and various guitarists create bleak rhythms and multi-layered textures, working them cleverly over the sound of the merging samples.

The screen splits into quarters, in much the same way as the original Woodstock footage, as icon after icon rotates before us, and almost before we know it the first half of the show is over.

The screen retracts, and Locust continue to offer us their beguiling vision of darkness – a brand of melancholy stringent enough to melt even the hardest of souls.

Their dark funk works well with Niblett's rangy shrills and wails: think of a combination of Massive Attack, This Mortal Coil and Garbage and you're getting close to the sound.

For a brief moment, Niblett clutches her head, as if reeling from sudden anguish, and in doing so betrays a combined sense of spontaneity and instinct – a sort of earthy Shirley Manson, if you like.

Locust could easily be tagged as yet another neo-Gothic combo, but that doesn't quite capture the essence, even though they do insist on wearing their blackened hearts on their sleeves.

VELIMIR PAVLE ILIC



Thomas Edur and Agnes Oaks form a stunning classical partnership in Wayne Sleep's 'Dash'

Laurie Lewis

Old stager cuts a fine dash

DANCE

WAYNE SLEEP'S DASH
LONDON COLISEUM

INDEFATIGABLE IS not usually meant as a compliment. It suggests the critic's distaste for someone trying too hard to please; usually someone who's been at it rather longer than anyone cares to remember. Wayne Sleep is indefatigable. But in a nice way.

He was 50 this year. Standing still, he looks his age but, once in motion, he looks like a 12-year-old about to win a pirouetting competition. His height, and his correspondingly low centre of gravity, have always made him a whizz at such trick steps, and their speed and power seems undiminished. His latest show, *Dash*, is a 17-part running buffet of dance ranging from Ashton, Adam and Petipa to Wilson, Keppel and Betty from the golden age of music hall.

There is plenty of variety, but the short pieces flow smoothly into each

other and Sleep's theatrical intelligence makes sure that our interest never flags. The audience (which appeared to be one huge girl's night out) thoroughly enjoyed itself.

Sleep paces himself with care, but still manages to be on the stage for much of the rather long evening. He has assembled a scratch company of dancers from English National Ballet and Northern Ballet Theatre, plus Melissa Wishinski and Timothy Melady from the Hartford Ballet in Connecticut. Wishinski was of particular interest as she will be joining the Royal Ballet next season at the unusually young age of 16. Extremely pretty and impressively

self-assured, she tackled a modified version of the *pas de deux* from *Don Quixote* with nerves of steel, and her balances were superb. However, she will need a lot of looking after if she is to realise her potential.

The real classical stars of the evening were the Estonian couple Thomas Edur and Agnes Oaks, who had been beamed in from Planet Ballet with exquisite accounts of the *pas de deux* from *Giselle* Act II and *Sleeping Beauty* Act III. Edur doesn't just move beautifully; he stands still with such elegance, distilling the grandeur of classical ballet into a single splendid attitude.

Sleep had choreographed eight of the pieces himself. Several began life as *pièces d'occasion*, but Sleep obviously can't abide waste and has taken to wheeling them out again when the occasion has passed. *Savoy*

Suite, a Gilbert and Sullivan ballet that was written for the reopening of the Savoy Theatre, looks nice enough, but his famous *Tribute to Diana*, created for a Royal Academy of Dancing gala last winter, has worn less well. The short piece is a reprise of the duet he once danced with the Princess of Wales at Covent Garden in 1985. Now he dances alone, smiling up at an invisible partner in front of a huge still of the original duet.

It's glitiously sentimental and achieves its effects cheaply by tapping into the audience's existing feelings rather than generating any of its own. But it's very sad, just the same, to be reminded of that big, beautiful girl blithely dancing.

LOUISE LEVENE

London Coliseum, to 8 August (0171-632 3300)

War but not as we know it

PROMS

BBC SYMPHONY
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PROMENADERS WITH a sense of history will have been humbled this week by two devastating musical war memorials. The first, heard on Sunday, commemorated the Czech village of Lidice, which was wiped out by the Nazis; the second, which opened Tuesday night's Prom, recalled the Soviet massacre of 1,500 Polish soldiers in the Katyn forest on the Russian/Polish border. Stalin had given the order.

Andrzej Panufnik's *Katyn Epitaph* opens to a lone, high-winding solo violin; desolate music, bitter-sweet and profoundly disorienting. Michael Davis gave his all, while the conductor Tadaaki Otaka stood by his head bowed, his hands folded, then slowly lifted his arms to cue a small group of woodwinds.

Three flutes held the stage, then divided strings gave them tender

support until the tension increased and so did the volume. Otaka held the pace rock-steady, taking Panufnik's lead until a repeated motif of the timpani broadened and brought the piece to an abrupt close. Too abrupt, perhaps? Might Panufnik have served us better with a slow descent back to tranquillity? Maybe, but his point was well made, and the performance was superb.

Politics and music make uncomfortable bedfellows. Thirty years ago, Rostropovich played the Dvorak Cello Concerto at the same venue, as Soviet troops bulldozed into Czechoslovakia.

Close on the heels of Ma's histrionic Dvorak came the noble opening of Elgar's First Symphony, sensitively balanced by Otaka so that the subsidiary lines sounded clearly and the melodies' crest rose up like some mighty Gothic arch.

Conducting without a score, Otaka was able to attend wholeheartedly to those elaborate little details that crowd the first movement. He conducted sensitively, confidently and with due weight in the movement's many brass-dominated climaxes.

The orchestra mirrored his every gesture – some feat given a number of elastic tempo changes. Otaka is as well as Elgar's First is full of them. I've heard Otaka conduct Elgar's First before, but never as beautifully as he did last night.

ROB COWAN

Handwritten signature: 1550

FILM

Between a rock and a hard place

THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

ARMAGEDDON (12)
DIRECTOR: MICHAEL BAY
151 MINS
STARRING: BRUCE WILLIS, BILLY BOB THORNTON, LIV TYLER

NATURALLY, *ARMAGEDDON* is about sex. Oh sure, this deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action-adventure and a global disaster movie. Quite bafflingly, it often struggles to be all these things at once.

The film-makers are evidently worried that they may alienate the romance fans while in the process of gratifying those who have come to savour mass destruction, so almost every moment is careful to include something for each member of the family. Dad will enjoy the gruff camaraderie of the deep-core drillers dispatched to sabotage the course of a meteor which is headed for the Earth. The profound love of the chief driller, Harry Stamper (Bruce Willis), for his daughter Grace (Liv Tyler) should please Mum, while the candy-coated exchanges between Grace and her fiancé AJ (Ben Affleck) will keep Big Sister quiet. Kid Brother is sure to punch the air whenever a burning car sails through the air, and there is even a treat for Fido when a chunk of flaming rock transforms the centre of New York into a charred crater, but cannot silence a yapping dog.

No one involved in *Armageddon* seems to have realised that crafting each scene to satisfy the demands of multitudinous appetites can only result in a jumble of tones and tastes. Consuming the film can be like eating an entire three-course meal puréed into a single serving – one mouthful yields a pungent collision of incompatible flavours.

The director, Michael Bay, has heeded Eisenstein's lessons in the power of montage; many of the film's images rush past so swiftly that they register only subliminally. And he can bring sudden beauty to the chaos – a flurry of sparks in the cockpit of an exploding space shuttle looks like an exotic floral bloom. But the picture has serious difficulty processing identity, and not only in terms of its audience's demographic profile. The countries of the world are acknowledged, which at least marks an advance on *Deep Impact*, in which apocalypse apparently posed a threat only to a stretch of



As Bruce Willis plays him, the cowboy figure of Harry Stamper could eat John Wayne as an hors-d'oeuvre

California freeway and some desirable beachfront properties.

But is being represented by crude picture-postcard tableaux any better than not being represented at all? Standing in for France, for example, is a group of hip young things crowded around a café table, moped in view, berets and onions out of shot, but only just. This might be considered xenophobic if the compositions designed to encapsulate American life were not similarly ill-informed, each of them staged beneath the billowing Stars and Stripes. What this particular *armageddon* threatens to extinguish is not, it seems, the flame of human life, but the precarious constructs of national identity.

The film does have some fun with its heroes, an assembly of misfits and sociopaths who have spent

their lives on oil rigs. "Talk about the Wrong Stuff", one character remarks as the team convene for that traditional slow-motion walk toward the camera, looking for all the world like the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band in space-suits.

One of America's favourite self-defining symbols is the lantern-jawed cowboy, a figure who is resurrected in *Armageddon* after spending most of this decade on the subs' bench. As Bruce Willis plays him, Harry could eat John Wayne as an hors-d'oeuvre, if real men ate hors-d'oeuvres, that is; his face is as craggy and impervious as the meteor he is trying to destroy. Only Grace sees his sensitive side. Their relationship is intense. The meteor may be the size of Texas, but Grace has an Electra complex that is even bigger. At various points in the

film, AJ is likened to a young version of Harry, which makes explicit Grace's transference of forbidden urges. When he departs for the stars with Harry, Grace risks losing not only the man she loves but also AJ, who provides an acceptable surrogate focus for her desires.

Which brings us to sex. No film about a gang of men displaying their prowess with a big drill can claim to be innocent in its deployment of sexual imagery, but watching *Armageddon* is like taking a roller-coaster ride down the most lurid alleyways of Freudian theory. It is not in fact about the end of the world at all, but rather about the terror that women inspire in men, and the lengths to which those men will go to tame that which they cannot understand.

The main characters have a chequered history with women. Harry was deserted by his wife without any explanation. Another driller, Charles (Will Patton), is estranged from the mother of his son, and his existence hidden from the boy. These bewildered souls, whose lives have been complicated and destroyed by women, are then called upon to fly into space and obliterate a big rock nicknamed "Dottie". For civilisation to survive, the drillers must successfully penetrate Dottie, the biggest and most indomitable female of them all. They must give her a drilling she will never forget.

"Let's chew this bitch up," Harry enthuses as his drill eats into the meteor. He knows that success is all about how deep you go, and whether

or not you can hit the spot. "I've been drilling for 30 years and I've never missed the depth I've been aiming for," he brags. However, it appears that his technique is a little rusty. The younger AJ climbs into the saddle instead. He drives his drill in up to the hilt. His buddies cheer him on. You may have the sensation of stumbling in on a particularly unsavoury stag party.

When it is revealed that the detonation device has a defective trigger, rendering it impotent at the most inconvenient point, even AJ is powerless to remedy the situation. There can be only one solution. Someone has to stay behind and manually shoot the nuclear load in the ultimate realisation of phallic power – virility as altruism, sex as suicide. If the mission succeeds and

Dottie is taken in hand, then the future will be safe for a new generation of men and women. Men who are secure in their masculinity. Women who will not leave, or do anything likely to spoil a man's day.

This whole end-of-the-world nonsense turns out to simply be a preamble to Grace and AJ's wedding, though in all the excitement everyone seems to have forgotten the small matter of France being wiped out in the final reel. We are supposed to be placated by the fact that AJ has survived. I'm not being ungrateful here; he has a cheeky smile, and an adorable way of cocking his head when he is trying to be sincere. But as a substitute for several thousand years of culture and history, I'm not sure he really cuts it.

THE CHARTS

UK/IRELAND BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS (£)
1 Godzilla	484	6,737,015
2 The Wedding Singer	263	854,672
3 Six Days, Seven Nights	347	850,408
4 Grease	243	776,549
5 The Little Mermaid	374	483,330
6 City of Angels	262	465,382
7 Barney's Great Adventure	272	416,851
8 Sliding Doors	160	305,051
9 Mad City	131	165,171
10 The Object Of My Affection	71	117,583

US BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS (\$)
1 The Mask of Zorro	2515	33,855,235
2 Lethal Weapon 4	3117	31,446,912
3 Armageddon	3184	25,905,991
4 There's S/thing About Mary	2186	24,307,424
5 Dr Doolittle	2805	14,764,563
6 Small Soldiers	2613	13,504,973
7 Mulan	2283	8,263,083
8 Madeline	1863	7,880,078
9 Six Days, Seven Nights	1416	3,186,755
10 The Truman Show	1540	3,146,575

GERMAN BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS (DM)
1 Armageddon	858	18,536,505
2 Six Days, Seven Nights	568	1,949,164
3 The Wedding Singer	387	1,510,532
4 Gattaca	112	1,065,365
5 The Little Mermaid	422	854,654
6 Titanic	288	682,031
7 Money Talks	196	607,234
8 Grease	204	584,833
9 Zuegwogel	65	549,600
10 Quest for Camelot	401	455,543

ALSO SHOWING

ZERO EFFECT (15) JAKE KASDAN ■ **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD (18)** JOHN HILLCOAT ■ **THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)** MICHAEL CURTIZ/WILLIAM KEIGHLEY

Movie brat strikes while the irony's hot

THE 22-year-old writer-director, Jake Kasdan, grew up on film sets, watching his father Lawrence (*The Big Chill*, *Grand Canyon*) at work. It shows in more ways than one. Yes, the camera in his own debut feature *Zero Effect* may be prone to assorted pirouettes and loop-the-loops in an attempt to jazz up a perfectly satisfactory scene. But as well as having the behavioural tics of a born filmmaker, Jake Kasdan also displays the traits of a promising human being: the picture is a cry, or at least a bleat, of anguish from an artist who fears that he could be quarantined by his art.

The film is also furiously funny. It begins by eavesdropping on the immaculately groomed Steve Arlo (Ben Stiller) as he gives the lowdown on his "employer" to a prospective client. His boss is Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a man who can tease out your darkest secrets within minutes of meeting you. Only he is now a recluse who prefers to conduct his business through Steve. Kasdan very quickly establishes one of the film's main themes: the friction caused when a public persona is at odds with an inner self. The most jarring contrast is saved for when we finally meet Daryl. He is no Terminator. He is more like the sort of deranged dropout that you find sitting next to you on the last train home. He hides himself away in a sprawling apartment behind a bank of computers and a series



To Have and to Hold: an intense but not consuming work

of locks and alarmed doors, subsisting on a diet of amphetamines, tuna fish and Tab.

As Daryl, the actor, Bill Pullman, is at his most bewitching when his raging energy is being muzzled beneath a veneer of respectability – you catch his speed-freak eyes twinkling and his mouth contorting into a lopsided smile and you know that the monster inside him is a breath away from combusting. Kasdan's characterisation is precise too; I particularly liked the way Daryl has to catalogue every experience. "Do you remember The Case Of The Mismatched Shoelaces?", he asks Steve. We also hear about The Case Of The Man Who Lied About His Age and The Case Of The Hired Gun Who Left Way, Way Too Many Clues.

A danger with *Zero Effect* is that it applies an ironic sheen to the spy caper, a genre which is already sat-

urated with irony. Parodying something which is itself a parody can result in humour being bullied rather than coaxed from the material. This is a small matter. Mostly, Kasdan gets the tone just right. In fact, *Zero Effect* might otherwise be known as The Case Of The Movie Brat Who Actually Turned Out To Know A Thing Or Two About Life.

Nick Cave collaborated on the music for John Hillcoat's film *To*

Have and to Hold, and indeed this stormy, overwrought jungle melodrama has the feel of one of Cave's songs stretched out to two hours. It is certainly an intense work, though that intensity does not consume you – Hillcoat's knowing use of clichéd imagery and his invocation of themes present in *Rebecca* and *Vertigo* distance you from the story of Jack (Tchéky Karyo) who takes his new lover Kate (the excellent Rachel Griffiths) back to his Papua, New Guinea home to remake her in the image of his dead wife.

There are crocodiles, dismemberments and gouged-out eyes; there is drunken target practice and explicit sex. What you don't get from the screenplay is any insight into the nature of Jack's madness. Perhaps this is the fault of Karyo, who has less charisma than any actor since Mr Ed.

Just space to point you in the direction of *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, which is re-released this week to mark its 60th anniversary. Errol Flynn is poised and dashing, and the whole picture has a general fizzy flair that is absent from many modern adventure movies. I'm not saying they don't make them like this anymore – there is plenty in recent cinema to be thrilled about. But as an antidote to the pomposity of *Armageddon*, this is just the ticket.

All films on general release

RYAN GILBEY

I didn't want to make another 'hood film

Eve's Bayou is a film about an Afro-American family, but there is no oppression, no poverty, no violence. Kasi Lemmons wanted to tell it like it is. By James Mottram

Black female directors are a rare breed. Successful ones, more so. Kasi Lemmons, whose first feature *Eve's Bayou* more than qualifies her for membership of this exclusive club, has gone one step further. She's brought fresh "black experience" to white arthouse audiences.

Set in a fictional bayou in the early Sixties, *Eve's Bayou* portrays a flawed but likeable black middle-class family (headed by Samuel L. Jackson), through the eyes of one of the twin daughters (Jurnee Smollett). Poetic and slow-burning, with its concerns of the relationship between memory and truth, Lemmons calls it a film of "gothic sensibilities", unconsciously pointing to the wider issues at hand.

With a budget of just \$4m, *Eve's Bayou* became the most successful independent film of last year, taking \$15m in the US at the box office without needing to resort to the obligatory "black" themes of oppression, poverty or violence. Rarely, it's a black art film that's about as far removed from the work of Spike Lee as you can get.

"The major difficulty in getting the film made was not that I was a woman or a first-time director. It was the material," concurs Lemmons. "It's a different kind of movie. It's hard to convince people to give you money to make an all-Afro-American arthouse film. When I was pitching the idea, I invented the precedent and compared the script to films such as *Waiting To Exhale*, when there was really no comparison. It's really more like *The Piano* and *Like Water For Chocolate*."

Kicked around studios for a number of years (Danny Glover even wanted to direct, but Lemmons remained adamant that she must), the project only took off with the arrival of Samuel L. Jackson, as actor and - for the first time in his career - producer. The tenacious Lemmons, best known for her acting abilities as Jodie Foster's room-mate in *Silence of the Lambs*, went with Jackson to studios with a mission in mind.

"I didn't care beyond the black audience. I thought they deserved a different kind of product to the usual fare. If the audience had been 100 per cent black, that would've been fine. But I'm thrilled it made the cross-over I predicted. What was cynical about the way people viewed *Eve's Bayou* was that they thought it wouldn't cross over. White people loved the script, but thought it wouldn't be seen by whites. It's very much underestimating one's own people."

With no previous successes in this field, the reaction of script-development chiefs was predictable, if disappointing. Jackson, speaking this week at the National Film Theatre, recalls: "Studios looked at the script, and said 'Who is gonna come and see this?' Just because we couldn't put a hip-hop soundtrack on it meant it wasn't going to be *Soul Food*. Not every story about everyday Afro-Americans is a 'Hood' film. In this film, there is no mention of the political climate of the times. It could have been about any race, they just happened to be black."

Nevertheless, the film was marketed very differently to black and white audiences. Lemmons recalls the distributors running two subtly different advertising campaigns, proving that such Utopian cinematic racial integration as yet is non-existent. "The black audiences responded more to a softer trailer, shots of the family; the white arthouse crowd were given one that was more generic, a dark *Miller's Crossing* kind of thing." The UK has got the latter, giving the appearance of a John Grisham thriller, but also indicating that black audiences elsewhere may be missed. Lemmons is convinced that countries like Brazil and South Africa could have found a coloured audience, given the right marketing. Undoubtedly, though, *Eve's Bayou* marks a new era for black film-making, moving away from credible, but dangerously stereotypical ghetto-central works hewed from the *Boyz n The Hood* school of film-making.

"I think there are a bunch of films that are exploring the Afro-American



'Eve's Bayou' was marketed very differently to black and white audiences

middle class, such as *Love Jones* and *Soul Food* - showing different ways of looking at family, as opposed to gang stories," says Lemmons. "They are still going to continue making 'Hood' films, but are more willing to go in a different direction and I think I've helped that. We need a variety of product in order to succeed. White audiences get this, Afro-American audiences deserve the same thing. White audiences also deserve differ-

I was aiming to explore the way adults looked at me when I was a child

ent experience - the 'black experience' as they call it, of which there is more than one."

Claiming she's "not into propaganda", Lemmons calls for black film-makers to present all forms of experience. Her film is inspired by childhood trips to Louisiana. "I wanted to write a story about people who were like royalty in a small town. Louisiana has a unique history in the US. It was one of the only places where slaves could buy their freedom. Even in the 1700s, there were free people

of colour, who had citizenship, because the State was owned by the French."

Convinced to write by her therapist, who advised her to avoid the annual pilot shown season that most LA actors endure, *Eve's Bayou* emerged from characters and a fictional locale that Lemmons had carried with her through short stories, and even a short film, *Dr. Hugo*. Encouraged by her actor-writer-director husband Vondie Curtis Hall (who was behind last year's *Gridlock'd*, and features in both of his wife's directorial efforts), Lemmons pulled what she has always referred to as just a "purely creative experience - something I needed to do" from the drawer.

"I was aiming to explore the way adults looked at me when I was a child," she says. "My family and their friends were all people of colour who were extremely beautiful. It was a middle-class coloured society that had a certain aesthetic and lifestyle. You look at photos, and they looked like movie stars. I felt it was important to explore this deep glamour."

Brought up in St. Louis by her academic parents (father a biologist, mother a psychologist), Lemmons "did the struggling actor thing" in her twenties, spending years in acting classes at the Lee Strasberg Institute and the Circle in the Square before enrolling in film at New York's New

School for Social Research. Her "first love", acting, brought her parts as Nicolas Cage's victim in *Vampire's Kiss* and Virginia Madsen's co-investigator in *Candyman*. It was during this period that she first met Jackson.

Lemmons, who claims even when he wasn't there Jackson's "spirit [read: industry clout] remained with me in the room" when facing executives, is set to work again with him. Her next project is *Caveman's Valentine*, the story of a paranoid homeless composer who lives in a cave on the edge of Manhattan, with Jackson set to take the central role. Meanwhile, *The Impersonator*, a psycho-sexual thriller written with her husband (with him in line to direct) awaits the green light, as do a host of scripts written by Lemmons for Michelle Pfeiffer, Julia Roberts and Whitney Houston. Though admitting she has not given up on acting, Lemmons appears more gratified working behind the camera at the moment, something she achieved on *Eve's Bayou*, having just given birth to a baby.

"It was insane. Usually I would hold the baby in rehearsal, then hand her over to someone else while shooting. Vondie would fly over from LA, where he was editing *Gridlock'd*, and play Daddy for a while."

Eve's Bayou is released on 14 August



Oh, it's had very good 'word of mouth'

No critic will be allowed to see *The Avengers* before its release. Just how bad is it? By Ryan Gilbey

WHILE AT the Warner Bros offices a few weeks ago, I happened to ask whether the company were planning any press screenings of *The Avengers*, given that the picture was scheduled to open in mid-August. "We haven't got a print yet," a press officer told me, which was neither unusual nor suspicious. When I telephoned the distributors last week, I got the full story.

"Warner Bros has taken the decision not to show the film to the press."

Oh, is it that bad?

"Actually, the film has had extremely good word of mouth."

I laughed - extra hard for emphasis. Although no critic has yet seen the film, anyone could tell you what the various anonymous insiders and rumour-mongers are saying about *The Avengers*. None of this matters, of course. The trick with blockbuster movies is to plant the idea of them in people's minds as early as possible, and in this respect, the *Avengers* film has performed spectacularly. Its trailer seems to have been playing in cinemas for decades, and its key images are imprinted on my mind just as intended: a cat-suited Uma Thurman framed inside a glaring red telephone box; Ralph Fiennes duelling with a village hobby and a milkman; Sean Connery sashaying around in a kilt. Whether it will be any good or not is irrelevant. People know about it. People want to see it.

Around the same time that the trailers start appearing, a wave of dissent usually gathers momentum. *The Avengers* was no exception: there were plenty of rumours about on-set troubles and script hitches, probably passed on from a friend of a cousin of that woman who did Uma's nails.

But it is highly significant and potentially destructive for Warner Bros to take the step of forbidding critics from passing early judgement on a film.

And not just any film. *The Avengers* is Warner Bros' big summer movie - in other words, the company's only chance to compete on a major level with its rivals.

The reasons for this are twofold. The relative failure in blockbuster terms of *Godzilla* has forced distributors to realise that a film with the backing of both widespread product awareness and merchandising opportunities is not necessarily a surefire hit. *Godzilla* was panned by critics and suffered from bad word of mouth early on in its release.

The other reason relates directly to Warner Bros. As reported in the US film magazine *Premiere*, the company had a comparatively bad 1997, and consistently failed to yield a blockbuster success. *Conspiracy Theory* and *Contact* were disappointments, but the biggest sting was caused by *Batman & Robin*, which was such a disaster that the company is rumoured to have ordered a complete makeover of the franchise before another instalment is shot.

Warner Bros has obviously concluded that it would rather have a moderate-to-good opening weekend, then see the takings fall off in the wake of critical responses, than risk an immediate critical assault that could jeopardise initial box-office receipts. The company realises that by removing critics from the equation, it is drawing adverse attention to *The Avengers* and suggesting an inherent inferiority in it compared with the season's other movies, all of which the country's critics have been free to view in time for release.

This embargo is effectively saying: *The Avengers* is too weak a product to be able to compete on normal terms. In the light of anything but the most cursory examination, it will wither and die. Or, in the euphemistic words of the press office: "We want the public to see the film first."

Passion has no limits.

FIRELIGHT

STARTS AUGUST 14

AND AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

RUSHES
FIONA STURGES

NEWS COMES of Jim Carrey's first steps to becoming a method actor, a technique more famously implemented by Robert De Niro and Dustin Hoffman. The customarily fluffy star of *The Mask and Ace Ventura - Pet Detective* has been going to extravagant lengths to perfect his performance as the eccentric Andy Kaufman, star of the revered US TV series *Taxi*, in Miles Forman's biopic *Man on the Moon*.

On the first day of shooting, the actor arrived dressed as an ice-cream man and proceeded to hand out refreshments to his co-stars. There are also reports that he has two trailers on the set - one for Andy Kaufman and the other for Kaufman's lounge-lizard alter ego Tony Clifton - and insists that the crew call him Tony at all times.

The other *Taxi* stars, Judd Hirsch, Marilu Henner, Jeff Conaway and Carol Kane, will play themselves in the film, with Danny DeVito, who starred as the dodgy

dealing Louis, playing Kaufman's manager George Shapiro.

THE SPIELBERG coffers continue to bulge as the director's wartime weepy *Saving Private Ryan*, starring Tom Hanks, hauls in a total of \$73.4m. The film staved off competition

from several new pictures last weekend, including *The Parent Trap*, which was the runner-up at \$11.2m. Meanwhile, Hanks' co-star Matt Damon has expressed exasperation at the endless coverage of his split with the British actress Minnie Driver. He told the *New York Post* that he was "sick and tired" of his erstwhile co-star telling the story of how he had dumped her on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Driver's sister has publicly spoken in Damon's defence, claiming that the break-up took place several hours before the show.

AFTER BIG-screen catastrophes (*Batman & Robin* and *The Peacemaker*) George Clooney has teamed up with director Steven Soderbergh, of sex, lies and videotape fame, for a final fling at celluloid credibility. Clooney will star in *Leatherheads*, a romantic comedy set amid the world of professional football in the Twenties.

Earlier conflicts on the casting couch led the director to abandon the project, but after intervention from Universal, he decided to resurrect it with the ER heart-throb at the helm. Production kicks off in March.

THE HOLLYWOOD grande dame Elizabeth Taylor (left) is priming herself for the lead role in a sequel to the 1939 Judy Garland classic *The Wizard of Oz*. Taylor, who hasn't been seen on the big screen since *The Finislator* in 1994, has been in talks with the actor Rod Steiger (with whom she has also been romantically linked), who has co-written a script.

The sequel involves a geriatric Dorothy expressing a desire to leap back over the rainbow and return to the Land of Oz, but there is no news of whether she will be joined by her customary companions, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion.

BURNOUT? NO CHANCE

Why didn't Christian Bale, star of 'Empire of the Sun' go the same way as all other child actors?

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 14 —

"An extraordinarily assured and imaginative film... A MASTERPIECE" - TIME OUT

★★★★ "BRILLIANT... this is A MASTERPIECE" - THE GUARDIAN

★★★★ "One of the MOST ORIGINAL cop movies ever made" - THE EXPRESS

"An EXCELLENT thriller with IMPECCABLE STYLE" - THE MIRROR

A FILM BY TAKESHI KITANO

HANA-BI

ABC METRO GIE

John Miles 1550

"A GRISHAM THRILLER HAS RARELY BEEN THIS SEXY OR THIS MUCH FUN."
 "INTENSE, POWERFUL, DARK AND DANGEROUS."

A ROBERT ALTMAN FILM

KENNETH BRANAGH
 EMBETH DAVIDTZ
 ROBERT DOWNEY JR.
 DARYL HANNAH
 TOM BERENGER
 ROBERT DUVAL

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

15

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL STORY BY JOHN GRISHAM
 PICTURES BY ISLAND FILMS AND ENCOUNTER ENTERTAINMENT
 PRODUCED BY ROBERT ALTMAN AND KENNETH BRANAGH
 WRITTEN BY ROBERT ALTMAN AND KENNETH BRANAGH
 DIRECTED BY ROBERT ALTMAN
 CASTING BY JEREMY THOMPSON
 COSTUME DESIGNER JANE ROBERTS
 HAIR BY MARK BURG
 MAKEUP BY GLEN A. TOMAS
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARK BURG, GLEN A. TOMAS, TODD BAKER
 PRODUCED BY JOHN GRISHAM
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 AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

What's the boy playing at?

Christian Bale was a Spielberg child star at 13. But he decided not to slide into the usual destructive spiral of drink, drugs and self-loathing. Interesting move. By Liese Spencer

Drew Barrymore. River Phoenix. Macaulay Culkin: everyone knows what happens to child actors. Moppets grow up into monsters, with acne and weight problems. They drink and take drugs. They go through a painful, public puberty, then wind up on the video shelf. Or lying dead outside the Viper Room. So what happened to the archetypal "Brit-packer", Christian Bale?

By rights, the precociously talented 13-year-old star of Spielberg's *Empire of the Sun* should have slipped into obscurity years ago. Instead, with leading roles in a forthcoming adaptation of Julian Barnes's novel *Metroland*, and Todd Haynes's sumptuous glam rock extravaganza *Velvet Goldmine*, the actor - now 23 - shows no sign of burning out.

"Don't ask me about selling out," he grins. "The first thing I did, I sold out. It was a Lenor advert, when I was eight years old. I was one of those annoying kids who peek around the washing-machine with their dirty football boots." Young Bale pocketed \$90, bought "a pair of DMs and a Rubik Snake", and never looked back.

Of course, there have been a few flops along the way (the musicals *Newsies* and *Swing Kids* are best forgotten) but Bale's cinematic coming of age has been surprisingly smooth. Judicious supporting roles in *Henry V*, *Little Women* and *Portrait of a Lady* built his reputation as a serious actor while establishing him as the thinking girl's pin-up. He is inundated by "Baleheads"; the actor's website is one of the most popular on the Internet, rivalled only by that of Leonardo DiCaprio's.

Cyber-rivalry between the two ex-child stars recently erupted into the real world, when Bale found his lead role in a forthcoming adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* threatened by the *Titanic* star. Still waiting to discover which will get to shred their poster-boy image by playing the Wall Street serial killer Patrick Bateman, Bale must content himself with the more proscribed rebellions essayed in his upcoming releases.

In *Metroland*, Bale plays Chris, a sixth-form rebel who teams up with his best friend to bait bowler-batted members of the bourgeoisie before settling back into suburban comfort with wife Emily Watson. *Velvet Goldmine*, meanwhile, sees his newspaper journalist Arthur researching a retrospective feature on glam rock and unearthing memories of his own teen flirtation with Seventies glitterball androgyny. Be-fared, and with some of the worst sideburns this side of Slade, Bale teeters precariously through the flashbacks on stacked sofas, before enjoying a climactic post-concert night of passion with Ewan McGregor's American rock god.

Bale has never had much need to rail against conformity. As the son of



Christian Bale in 'Metroland'. He has never had much need to rail against the curse of conformity

an ex-airline pilot and a circus dancer, he says, the most rebellious thing could have done was to "stick on a shirt and tie and go to work in a bank". Perhaps that is why he is "perversely drawn" to suburbanites such as Chris and Arthur. "I'm attracted to characters who appear to be passive observers, who aren't obviously interesting."

I'm attracted to characters who appear to be passive observers, who aren't obviously interesting

Less boy-next-door than budding Bohemian-on-the-move, the teenage Bale may never have languished in suburban ennui but, he says, "there were times as a family when we ended up in very small places and there would be that fear of where the hell are you going to next, and what's going to happen? I suppose the difference was that it was never boredom. It was never a fear of nothing's going to happen."

Bale's relaxed upbringing has

proved to be a good preparation for the vicissitudes of the acting profession, but it sometimes got him into trouble at school. "Basically, I'd turn up late every day. I remember the teacher saying, 'One day, Christian, you're going to ask to see your school registration, and when they see all your 'lates' on it, they're going to think you're unreliable and you're not going to get the job.'" Bale smirks at the memory, as well he might. It is certain that Spielberg did not ask to see his registration card before choosing him from 4,000 other boys to play the lead in *Empire of the Sun*.

For his part, Bale was singularly unimpressed by his director and co-star. "At that age you really don't give a shit. John Malkovich. Who? Spielberg, so what?"

Only after he returned home did Bale begin to feel the pressures of his new-found celebrity. "I was living in Bournemouth and suddenly everybody knew who I was. I remember sitting in this café with some friends and this girl came up, who obviously

didn't recognise me, and started going on about how she was going out with Christian Bale. I'd go down the public toilets and see things written about me on the wall. Guys would start fights with me. The local paper took pictures of me getting back from school [he laughs, and mimes flinching from the paparazzi], then wrote

At that age you don't care. 'John Malkovich. Who? Spielberg, so what?' You're fearless

features about how I wouldn't open a girls' school fête. I just felt a dick, you know? I was 14; I didn't want to stand there next to the mayor with a big pair of scissors, but they started saying I was big-headed, that I'd forgotten where I'd come from." He sports. "I didn't come from there, anyway."

A decade later, Bale puts his survival down to the fact that he never traded on a cuddly persona. These days he lives in Los Angeles, where he avoids glitzy Hollywood parties and

premieres, preferring to surf, or see friends. "You do meet some interesting people at those things, but if you go to too many you start losing sight of what you came here for."

In his personal life, Bale is currently enjoying being single. "I find it impossible to conceive of spending a whole day with somebody, let alone getting married," he says. "Between 15 and 21, I was with one girl. All my friends were running around, and then when we split up, some of my friends were getting married or moving in with each other, and I was like, 'yeah, but I've never done any of that other stuff.' So I need to get some of that out of my system."

Professionally, Bale has things to get out of his system too. "Getting shagged" by Ewan McGregor in *Velvet Goldmine* is certainly a step away from that boy-next-door image ("What can I say? He never writes, he never calls. It's quite upsetting.") but whether Bale will get the chance to make the definitive break with his schoolboy persona by playing an American *Psycho* remains to be seen.

'Velvet Goldmine' previews at the Edinburgh International Film Festival on 16 August; 'Metroland' is released on 18 August

Lights go out at the BFI

No new British arthouse movies for two years? What's going on? By Roger Clarke



'Gallivant' has been a big success for art house movies

WHEN CHRIS Smith announced that the British Film Institute will give way to a "Film Council" next year, with an increase in total spending on film in this country, it seemed like a brave new cinematic world was in the offing. In fact, the BFI has been working against the interests of our most promising film-makers for the past six months.

I'll come clean here: I'm one of several people who have found their script funding frozen by the BFI - since last February, in fact. Just after I came on board to co-write a feature being developed by Adam Roberts about the Elizabethan composer John Dowland, the council effectively came down on BFI feature film funding when they instituted their own spending review and decided to cancel funds for all the films being made or developed under their aegis. Now it seems that the lights have gone out and everyone has gone home, too. Along with several other film-makers including Steve McClean, whose feature *When the Music Stops* was cancelled in pre-production, we have been left in the lurch.

In the last week or so, experienced film journalists have tried to grapple with the complexities of the Government's position. Generally speaking, a cautious welcome has been extended. The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, proudly announced an increase in total film spending last week, but the BFI produced a "we're giving up making feature films" document entitled *A Time of Change*.

Virulently anti-intellectual, anti-London and otherwise displaying all manner of dated John Major-ish notions, it proclaimed the desire for "doing less but doing it more efficiently": as if doing nothing well was a fabulous achievement. It's an especially poignant moment since, with the international success of films like Andrew Koffing's *Gallivant* and the upturn in quality

exemplified by the forthcoming Francis Bacon *Love is the Devil* biopic, the BFI was finally getting its film-making sorted out.

It seems this organisation may be called the "Film Council", may have £72m to spend, and may be up and running by the end of 1999. But with British Screen losing its remit next April, that's it for small budget films. The BBC and ITV companies have made it clear that they are only interested in bigger budget movies. They all want a "Full Monty".

If you consider that funding for art house movies in this country effectively ceased last February, and will only resume by the end of next year, you are talking about two years in which arthouse movies - difficult, challenging, hopefully groundbreaking small movies, often by first-time directors - will not be made or developed in Britain. All to save £1m (BFI Production's annual budget).

Some might say that two years is not long to wait, and production will obviously resume in some form. But what does it say about any organisation - Chris Smith's department or the BFI management - that it suspends business while a review is carried out? Imagine closing the NFT and the RSC while Whitehall chews over the exact sums to give theatre. Imagine closing Heathrow for the duration of the Terminal Five Public Enquiry.

It may sound odd but it's actually very hard to write a script with no idea who you're going to pitch it to: any film-maker worth their salt has a clear idea not only of their audience but of their funding.

Previously, if you were making a small-budget movie in this country, you would have a chance to pitch at the BFI, British Screen and the Arts Council (lottery money) - all of them with slightly different styles. Now the giant Film Council is the only port of call, losing only one line. And no one even knows what that line is yet.

**"WICKEDLY WACKY,
Spot on performances,
witty and thoroughly
enjoyable"**
- *John Barry, BBC*

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great movies are
in for a treat"**
- *Terry O'Connell, FILM REVIEW*

**bill PULLMAN den STILLER
in
ZERO EFFECT**

**"Pullman is superb
★★★★"**
- *Baron Bignall, EMPIRE*

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CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS MANIFEST FILM PRODUCTION A JAKE KASDAN FILM BILL PULLMAN DEN STILLER "ZERO EFFECT" DICK DICKERS ANGELA FATHERSTONE AND RYAN O'BRIEN COSTUME DESIGNER MARY VERNIERO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JEFFREY BARNETT PRODUCED BY THE GARYTOWN ALLSTARS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HARRY WALTERS AND MARSHALL BAVAL COSTUME DESIGNER JIM DEHANE CO-PRODUCERS BARBARA REYNOLDS COSTUME DESIGNER TARA THOMPSON PRODUCTION DESIGNER GARY FRUTKINOFF DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BILL ROVE EDITOR LISA REYNOLDS JANEY TONG MUSIC BY JAKE KASDAN WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JAKE KASDAN

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DOUBLE BILL

WILLIAM NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF 'FIRELIGHT' (RELEASED 21 AUGUST) AND SCREENWRITER OF 'SHADOWLANDS', ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST DIR. SERGIO LEONE (1968)
2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY STANLEY KUBRICK (1968)

THIS IS a very long double bill - it would take almost a whole day to watch both, as they are each over three hours long. They are slow movies in an individual way, and that is one of the reasons I love them both. They build a hypnotic power, the kind of film-making that you have to surrender to the director. I admire - more than admire - films which completely draw you into this directorial confidence. From the very beginning you are not given the usual easy hooks, fast action, jokes or mystery, but are forced to attend to the images. I think that puts a lot of people off. But for me, once I have realised what is going on, I am just completely hypnotised. These are two very different movies. I would run the western first. *Once Upon a Time in the West* is the greatest western ever. It is brilliantly directed, although there are some things wrong with it - it is synched into English badly and clumsily at times. But it is majestically filmed, has one of the best music scores in film history and is an absolutely superb story. I am a great admirer of storytelling. The movie has

a central hook there is a mystery about the central character - why is he relentlessly pursuing the villain? When the mystery is finally revealed, in a way it is the most profoundly satisfying ending of any film I have seen. The end is wordless. It is a purely visual and vast, sprawling western that needs to be seen in the cinema. We would then have a nice meal to recover and settle down to 2001: *A Space Odyssey* (above). Once again this is a movie that makes no attempt to seduce us in the usual way. It is more than arrogance - it is almost Olympian the way Kubrick refuses to do anything to help us into the movie. He demands that we slow down to his pace and really surf on his images. You just have to accept the film-maker's terms and, once you have done that, you find yourself moving through a story that has very little action, and not

much in the way of character, but gradually exerts a massive grip. When I first saw this film I remember thinking it was pretentious; the ending has a very mysterious, almost mystical quality that didn't make sense. I have completely changed my mind: the ending is brilliant, almost entirely non-verbal and deeply haunting. It stays with you, and you see more the more times you watch it. This is a double bill of movies not made with words, which is odd for me as a writer. I think the reasons I am so drawn to them is that I am impressed by the way they use cinema to tell the story, not people talking. In different ways both do something that only cinema can do: create a sense of awe and wonder that you can't get from television.

JENNIFER RODGER

"Great stuff! The best film of its kind ever!"
Barry Norman, Film 98

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EDUCATION

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What happened when a teacher asked his pupils to name someone truly 'great' should worry us all. By Nigel Coulthard

Who is the greatest of them all?

I was covering a class of 12-year-olds for an absent colleague. By some fluke I hadn't taught or covered them before, so there were no particular expectations on either side. It was a registration period when one does "useful" personal and social education tasks. With nothing prepared I had to improvise on an idea I last tried with a similar group about 15 years ago. I asked the class to write down, quite privately, on a scrap of paper, the name of someone, living or dead, British or foreign, whom they thought to be truly great - so renowned that everyone in the class was likely to have heard of him/her. After that they were to write one line about why this person was great and why the student would like to become like them. I then invited each student to write the chosen name on a grid on the blackboard so we could discuss the different kinds of greatness and consider the talents and qualities involved.

Fifteen years ago we had almost as many different names as there were individuals in the class. They ranged, as I recall, from current stars of sport and music through to scientists, writers, human rights campaigners, and spiritual leaders; Gandhi, Guru Nanak, Shakespeare, Marie Curie, Einstein and Martin Luther King all appeared in the list of perceived "greats".

Today the total list was much shorter - about 12 names only, all alive, all British or American, all footballers, pop or soap stars.

Even more worrying was the linguistic poverty of one girl who at first objected to giving a name because she had chosen the name of the boy she "fancied" and that to reveal who she thought was "great" was too embarrassing. After explaining again what I meant by "great" she settled for the name of a pop group of boys.

Several thoughts struck me. Why has there been such a change over this period of time? Do children not know about achievements of the past? Do they have no awareness of

people working in science, medicine, space exploration and so on? Do they not know about individuals in the news, outside sport and pop? Or is there simply a culture trap which prevents them from admitting to such knowledge?

Such matters aside for the moment, what did the youngsters find to admire in members of the Spice Girls, David Beckham (this was prior to the World Cup; you can bet his name wouldn't be there now) and Hollywood soap starlets? There was unanimous agreement that these people were admired because they were attractive and rich. As to what their talents were and why the students would like to be like them, the answer was also because they were attractive and rich. There was no suggestion of skill or ability.

I am talking about children in a school where academic achievements are very good and the social mix almost exactly a microcosm of English society. Most homes are affluent and aspirations are reasonably high.

This set me wondering why there should be this lack of general knowledge about one's own culture and history. After all, hasn't there been a national curriculum in place, allegedly to inculcate just such ideas? It also seemed alarming that there were no individual, idiosyncratic choices.

Further talk with the children revealed that very few really had any knowledge of names such as Marie Curie, the Wright Brothers, Yuri Gagarin, Neil Armstrong or other names one might expect to be part of the language.

How was it that previous generations did have a smattering of such thinking - and I don't think that is a nostalgic, naive thing to assume. It couldn't all have come from *The Boy's Big Wonder Book of Famous Names* or the over-fetted *Children's Hour* on the Home Service. But I do conclude that children now do read less widely. Comparing my records of children's individual reading 15 years ago with the

present day, there is a slimming down of range, though quantity has not fallen as much as some claim.

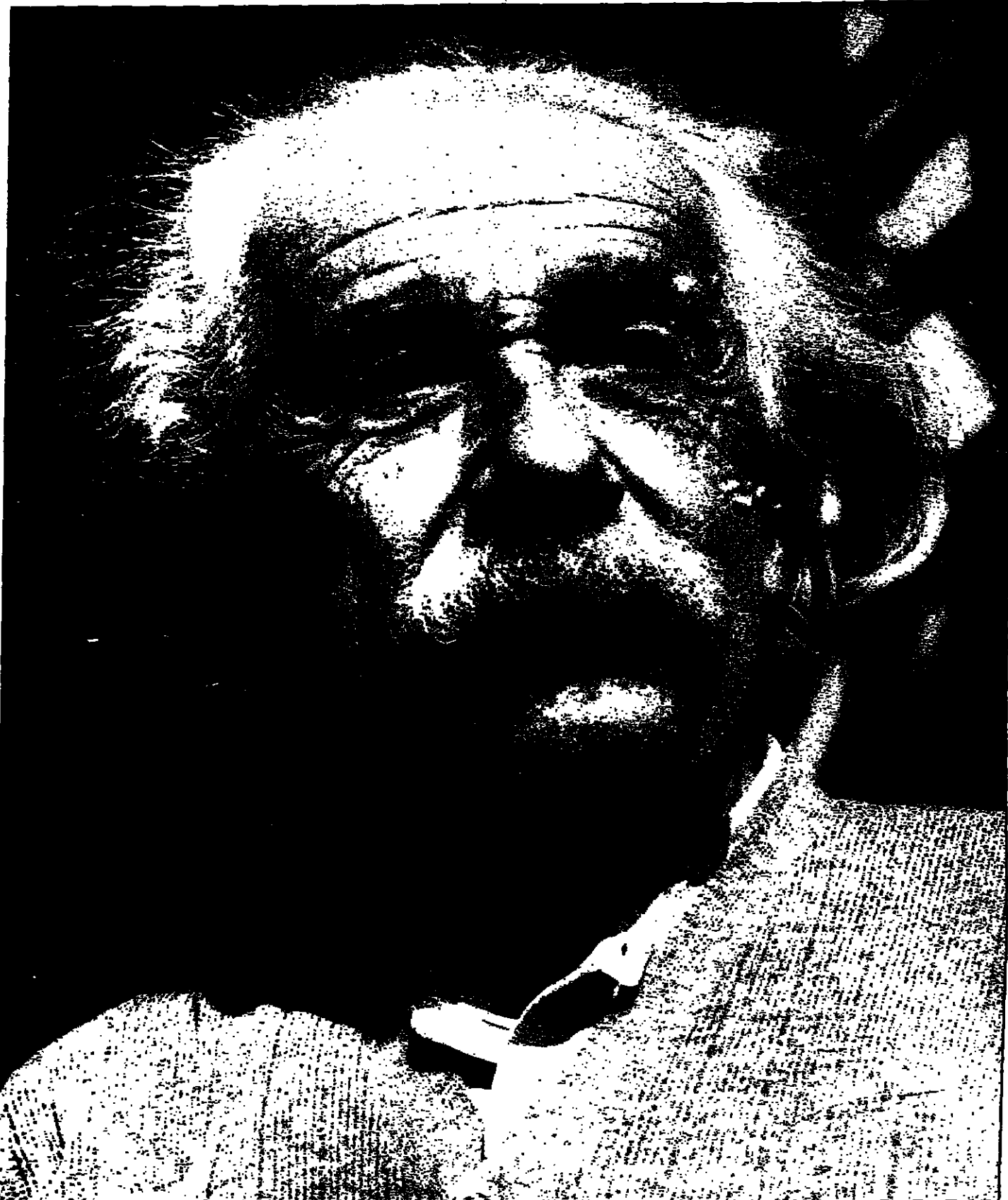
Parental discussion and reading too, I suspect, has declined. The demanding lives of busy middle class parents with their own pursuits, denies much family discussion. Satellite TV watching is a major occupation for youngsters - cartoons before and after school and films at night. Time on computer games and the decline of social activities for young people, must have taken their toll on the swapping of ideas.

Now, don't get me wrong: I am not bemoaning the passing of an illusory golden age or trying to put the clock back. Whatever it is, has arrived. We have to live with it. Family habits and the commercial world which spawns them won't change and nor will cable TV disappear.

But schools can make a difference. We can consciously offer students the chance to see beyond the commercial culture which intrudes into every pore of their potential mental being. Schools can offer the chance to open minds through visits, activities, discussion and projects that take children beyond the curriculum and from the pay those outside school offer them.

Given a free choice about presenting a talk on a topic of personal passions, children today opt for the safe, predictable and media-friendly topic of the moment. It would be refreshing to have again the students who, 15 years ago, talked about the thickening qualities of onion in Sri Lankan cooking, maggot-breeding, or the origins of R&B.

We can assert the value of qualities other than wealth and beauty. We can introduce a perspective on their own lives, which is currently so narrow as seeking to be rich and famous. In presenting the passions and endeavours of others we can allow young people to reassess for themselves the inner interests which have been brow-beaten by a pervasive, unifying culture which separates in contest, rather than draws together in interest.



Albert Einstein is not a soap star or a pop star and he doesn't play for England - so few children would rate him as great

It's not as bad as it seems. This group of Bedfordshire children had a better idea of greatness:

Sophie, 12: Diana, Princess of Wales - "She helped a lot of people when she was alive. She took a lot of risks. She was a very special person."
Marcus, 14: Winston Churchill - "The things he did in the War

WHO IS, OR WAS, THE GREATEST...

were very great."
Michael, 12: Albert Einstein - "Because he came up with the theory of relativity and had a brilliant mind."
Verity, 12: Martin Luther King - "He stood for what he thought

was right."
David, 11: Robert the Bruce - "Because he gave Scotland freedom."
Leon, 12: Diana, Princess of Wales - "She was always visiting people who needed help and did a lot towards banning landmines."
Lucy, 14: Martin Luther King - "Because he never gave up."

PASSED/FAILED

Ian Hislop, 38, alias Lord Gnome, is the editor of *Private Eye*. He has written scripts for Dawn French, *Harry Enfield and Chums* and *Spitting Image* and appears on *Have I Got News For You*. He recently presented two Channel 4 documentaries about education and the NHS, *School Rules* and *Pennies from Bevan*.

Mobile Gnome? I was entirely mobile: my father was a civil engineer and my parents lived abroad, so I went to a string of schools in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In Jeddah, I went to a school for the sons and daughters of TWA pilots, where I saluted the American flag and played baseball.

When I was seven, my father worked for a year at head office in England and I went to Lindfield Primary near Haywards Heath. Then he went to Hong Kong and I went to boarding school. Gnome from home? I was at Ardingly College, Sussex for nine years. After the prep school, I got a scholarship to the public school. It was fairly primitive: 30 people in large dormitories with no curtains, quite spartan. Muscular Christianity but not much homosexuality. Liberal and tolerant with it. I was not a huge rebel. Like anyone with any sense, I worked the system; there is no fun in being thrown out. In fact, I was head boy, the ultimate in uncool; you got a lot of privileges - and the duties followed. There were huge amounts of administration: the amazing thing about public schools is the huge amount of work they give to prefects which you'd imagine other people would be paid to do.

A distinct lack of Chemistry? At O-levels, I did all the sciences. I was determined to be a civil engineer, probably because my dad died when I was 12, and I thought I would have to replace him. In the sixth form, I started Maths, Physics and Chemistry A-



levels. After about a term, I dropped Chemistry and Physics and took up English and French. What changed my mind for me was that the chemistry teacher read out a letter in class from someone at university - hoping to inspire us - and I thought, "I couldn't possibly bear to do that!" See me in the *libel lawyer's study*. Hislop! I edited the school magazine with some friends. We had a brilliant English teacher, Colin Temblett-Wood,

who had been at Cambridge and in the Marlowe Society; of the same vintage as Trevor Nunn (on second thoughts it may have been Peter Hall. Same beard...).

He suggested we put on revues. The highlight was a careers' sketch on *How To Be A Bursar*: join the RAF and become a joint fund. We had not heard of the laws of libel. The headmaster thought it was very funny and nearly fell off his chair. *Sorted for Es?* There was a

group of us who the school thought were basically lazy and not doing enough work - entirely true - so they put us in for Oxford entrance after four terms. I took a Joint Maths and English paper.

I think they were rather cross when we all got in, which meant I could be even more lazy. My offer from Magdalen was two Es, although I actually got three As. I was down to do EPE and, with another brilliant change of mind, switched to English before I went up.

Shrinking Violet? While at Oxford, I won two awards, the Underhill Exhibition and the Violet Vaughan-Morgan Scholarship. The Violet Vaughan-Morgan scholarship, for which you took an exam in Jacobean literature, was worth £150. I spent it on an airline ticket to California, where I had a great time, which was probably not what Violet Vaughan-Morgan had in mind.

In my Finals, I was viva-ed for a first; I looked at Professor John Bailey and thought: "You're not going to give me this, are you?" I got a Second.

Exceteras, Exceteras? I can't act, comedy is all I can do - so I put on reviews with The Exceteras, which is not a formal organisation like the Cambridge Footlights, but is basically a bank account which you could get your hands on.

I went up to the Edinburgh Festival, performing two shows which I'd written or co-written. Imogen Stubbs was the girl in the shows; she could act, which rather shocked us.

INTERVIEW BY JONATHAN SALE

SUMMERTIME VIEWS SUSAN BLACKMORE

DID YOU see that Channel 4 programme last summer with Victorian mediums faking ectoplasm and magicians showing how they could duplicate the kind of psychic feats that Uri Geller is known for?

If not you missed a treat, but not to worry for now you may be able to see *Secrets of the Psychics* again. And why? Because Geller has had his complaint against the programme rejected.

After the programme, Geller complained of unfair treatment to the Broadcasting Standards Commission and I, along with a team from Channel 4, went to give evidence. It's been a long wait, but the commission has just announced its complete rejection of Geller's complaint. So it wasn't unfair to have magicians showing how they duplicate those "psychic feats", and experts saying there is no reliable scientific evidence for his psychic powers whatsoever.

If I'm sounding jubilant about this little victory it is not because I personally have anything against Geller. He has always been charming and kind to me, invited me and my children to tea at his flashy mansion on the banks of the Thames, showed us his boat (aptly named *Paranormal*), and let us swim in his pool. No - it is because this is a matter of scientific truth and freedom.

Although millions of people believe in extra-sensory perception, ghosts, UFOs, crystal powers and the tenets of astrology, the evidence for ESP is controversial (at best) and the claims of astrology demonstrably false. However, people don't want to see endless meticulous experiments with nothing but negative results. Viewers, and the producers who are their slaves, seem to prefer conspiracy theories, beings from outer space, scientists who cover



Uri Geller does his stuff

Why should we scientists ignore such a potentially exciting discovery? If I had succeeded in repeating it I might uncover something absolutely new and shocking about reality. But it just isn't so. As Richard Dawkins said, if Geller's powers could be proved to be real they would open up a new field of physics, scientists would flock to be involved, and someone would get a Nobel prize. But they haven't been.

That's why it is so refreshing to see *Secrets of the Psychics* - to see the "mysterious" ouija board explained, to see the mediums' tricks exposed, and to learn why all those experts doubt that psychic phenomena exist at all. And to all those producers pandering to popular belief, I say: "Wake up! It is possible to make an enjoyable anti-paranormal programme. It is possible to be sceptical and still please the viewers. Even my local green-grocer liked it. 'You know,' she said (lowering her voice), 'I don't think Uri Geller's really psychic, do you?'"

No I do not. I was glad to give evidence at the hearing. I was glad to explain why the evidence is not good enough. And above all I was glad that Geller lost his complaint. I may be wrong about his psychic powers, in which case he will be able to prove it to me, and then I will gladly change my mind. Meanwhile, it's good to know that programmes can make challenging and sceptical programmes in the knowledge that, if they do so fairly and honestly, the broadcast complaints procedure will stand by them.

And if *Secrets of the Psychics* comes on again - do watch.

The writer is senior lecturer in psychology at the University of the West of England



The shelves of university libraries sag and groan with unread and unreadable journal-fodder

David Rose

More research not needed

The welfare of students and university teachers has been sacrificed to 'research', much of it dismally bogus, argues Stephen Logan

It is bad (if not surprising) that academics should abuse the research-assessment system. Giving a boost to productivity ratios by concealing the presence of academics who have not published much (EDUCATION, July 16) is only, like "salami publication" - slicing up your research project into small packages for publication - another ruse to ensure survival in a cut-throat game.

Far worse than such self-defensive expedience is the fact that many - perhaps most - academics should apparently have stopped asking whether the system of assessment itself ought to be tolerated. In the Eighties, when it was rumoured that the work of universities was to be assessed by their output of published research, academics protested noisily. There were at least five grounds for protest.

First, the quality of research is not commensurate with its quantity. Secondly, the nature of "research", and its relation to other forms of intellectual activity, differs from subject to subject, and should not be assessed by the single criterion of whether it gets published (not the same, in any case, as whether it is worth publishing). Thirdly, pressure to produce research reduces willingness to teach which, fourthly, makes teaching likely to become

a second-order activity and put those engaged in it at risk of being exploited for the sake of supposedly more "productive" researchers. And finally, students would lose out, being deprived of necessary tutorial guidance and increasingly regarded as a commodity convertible into funds for more "research".

None of these arguments has lost its force, but the protest proved ineffectual, having been mounted by individual academics rather than by strategically marshalled groups. And ineffectiveness has bred a sense of resignation. By the time of the second research assessment exercise (RAE), the application of crude quantitative measures was accepted with relatively little demur.

In an environment of short-term contracts and me-first competition, academics already finding it difficult to get or keep a job noticed that the further particulars of many departments boasted of their 4, 5 and 5* ratings, for all the world as if they were an infallible gauge of merit.

As institutions were rewarded for

their success in the ratings game, dissent from the suppositions of the game itself was outlawed. A department with a 2 grade, or an individual with a sparse record of publication, found their mouth stopped by the suspicion of sour grapes. What was presented as pragmatic acquiescence in a system imposed by the Government, yielded to casual use of the system by academics as a means of mutual assessment.

Yet, at least as late as 1994, there were signs that the will to appraise the system, instead of merely allowing yourself to be appraised by it, had not been entirely extinguished. There was, of course, the belated introduction by the last Conservative government of an outwardly complementary teaching assessment exercise. But the RAE had already done its work. The supposition was that teaching was primarily an activity for those incapable of writing. Moreover, the categories of the TAE ("Excellent", "Satisfactory", "Unsatisfactory") made the numerical divisions of

the RAE seem a feat of super-subtle calibration.

Naturally it can be argued, in time-honoured academic fashion, that the RAE has yielded benefits. Yet the waste is colossal. Having spent most of my academic career under the shadow of the RAE, I feel entitled to say that it has been a disaster, crude in its presumptions, cruel in its effects. It has, in the humanities at least, destroyed more careers than it has made. (Scientists fare better because their previous methods of self-appraisal were more congruent with those of the RAE). And it may be that the careers it has destroyed, belonging in many cases to scholars with a special aptitude for teaching, might have been more conducive to the public good.

Through the RAE we have arrived at the pitiful situation in which the failure to publish indifferent research is commonly construed as failure to do valuable academic work. This is psychologically naive. Any student of literature should know that there is a complex

relation between the capacity to nurture accurate and creative thought and the capacity (or will) to convert it into publishable writing.

The welfare of students and of teachers dedicated to teaching has been sacrificed to 'research', much of it dismally bogus. That it should have been imposed on the universities by the government is regrettable. That it should be so willingly consolidated by academics themselves is tragic.

Those who are looking for an indication of the calibre of intellectual life in British universities will find it less in the research itself than in the ignominious scramble to get it weighed and measured.

The humanities do not need more research. As long ago as 1956, CS Lewis foresaw that research would become an incubus, crushing the life out of scholarship. The shelves of departmental libraries already sag and groan with unread and unreadable journal-fodder. We need more good academic work, in whatever form the talents of the individual cause it to take. And for that we need to be liberated from a hideously oppressive and inappropriate system of assessment.

Dr Stephen Logan is director of studies in English at St Edmund's College, Cambridge

A-Z OF UNIVERSITIES SURREY

Age: 107, if you count from the birth of Battersea Polytechnic Institute, 32, if you date it from university status and its present Guildford site. Incarnations: Three. Used to cater for the "poorer inhabitants" of London when it was a polytechnic institute. Became Battersea College of Technology in 1956, when it was designated a college of advanced technology. Elevated to university status in 1966.

Address: On the edge of the North Downs on a grassy hillside overlooking Guildford. Ambience: Small to medium-sized campus university built of functional grey sandstone, which means there's a concrete effect. But that is softened by man-made lakes and landscape gardening. You can even spy the odd duck and goose. Close-knit vocationally-minded community. Most degrees last four years, one spent in work placements, often abroad.

Vital statistics: Traditionally strong in the sciences and technology, has recently expanded hugely in arts and social sciences. Student numbers doubled in the past four years to 8,800. All students are encouraged to enrol for a course at the relatively new European Language Centre. New engineering degrees have a language component. Research has been boosted by extending the centre for satellite engineering research. A university company, Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd, is Britain's only company launching micro-satellites.

Added Value: As a pioneer of sandwich degrees, 80 per cent of Surrey students do a professional training placement as part of their degree. Which means it has a regular spot near the top of the graduate employment league. Easy to get into? For music and sound recording, ABB at A-

level; for electronic and electrical engineering ABB; economics BBB; psychology BBC; languages BBC.

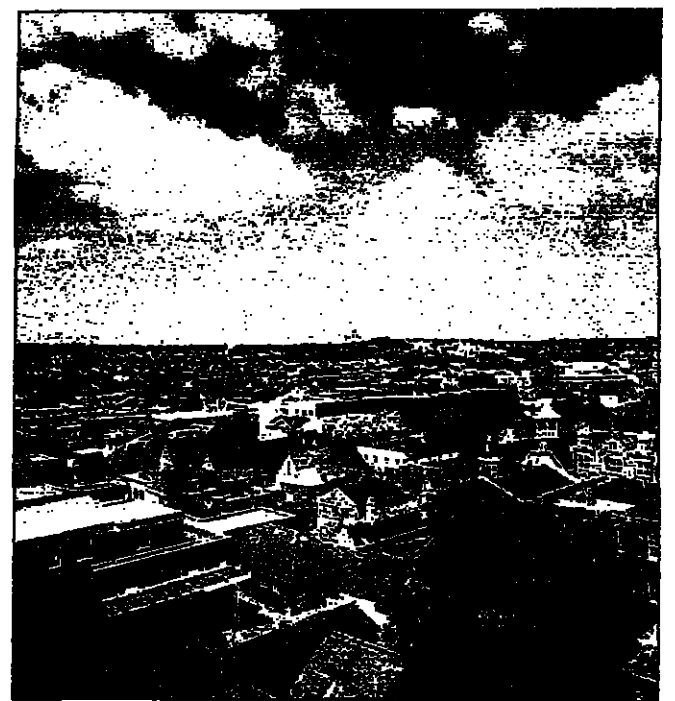
Glimmering alumni: Robert Earl, restaurateur and founder of Planet Hollywood; Alec Issigonis, who designed the Mini; Jeremy Mogford, founder of Browns restaurants; David Varney, chief executive BG plc; Nabil Shaban, actor and founder of Grease Theatre. Transport links: London 30 mins by road/train, Guildford Station is half-a-mile from campus. And it's 30 mins from Heathrow and Gatwick. Who's the boss? Engineer and sailor Patrick Dowling, formerly head of civil engineering at Imperial College, who was involved in the design of the Thames Barrier.

Teaching: Rated 23 out of 24 in electrical engineering; 22 in civil engineering and materials technology; 21 for sociology; 20 for dance studies; 18 for modern languages and chemical engineering. Research: Came 28th, tied with UEA, in the research assessment exercise. Awarded a top 5* for electronic and electrical engineering; and a 5 for sociology and toxicology. Financial health: In the black. Nightlife: Students' union has regular Sunday night bands. Hot names include Finlay Quayle, Lightning Seeds and Ocean Colour Scene. Or you can try a nightclub in town e.g. Bogangiez. Or hotfoot it to London. The university can be rather quiet when everyone is in London.

Cheap to live in? Private rents are around £50 a week. University accommodation costs £44 a week (self catering). Buzzphrase: Havin' a bubble (Havin' a laugh).

Next week: Sussex University

BY LUCY HODGES



ODDLY ENOUGH

NICHOLAS FEARN

Incey winces: Education officials in a southern Philippine province have banned spider-wrestling, a favourite children's pastime, to discourage students from skipping classes to catch spiders. The spiders are placed on a stick where they fight ferociously to the death amid the cheers of children, who often gamble on the outcome. Children usually go to meadows or farms at dawn or dusk to catch spiders, sometimes skipping classes or coming in late. Most of the spiders are collected from trees but some children say the best fighters are found on electric power lines. A prize fighter sells for up to 100 pesos (£150).

Deadly art: An art student prompted a health alert this week when her end-of-year project created a deadly fungus. Kelly Cumberland, 23, a student at Leeds Metropolitan University, had left jelly, gelatine and food colouring in scientific petri dishes and planned to photograph changes in colour and consistency. But when scientists at the university saw the cultures being grown in the arts studio they quickly recognised the aspergillus micro-organism. According to the fine art MA student, "The scientists said if it gets into your lungs it can grow there and kill you. They had a panicked look on their faces." The cultures were destroyed.

but Kelly plans to exhibit photographs of the micro-organism for her MA at the end of the month.

Saintly Claus: A college is to set up a special Santa Claus training course where the Father Christmas hopefuls must not smoke or drink while on the job. Weston-super-Mare College, which is launching the eight-week course, is planning to set up a special national federation for qualified Santas.

"They will have to learn that children are little adults and should be treated with respect," the course tutor said. "You cannot have Father Christmases drinking or smoking - I constantly suck breath fresheners," said the tutor, who was interviewed only on condition of his anonymity. "For the sake of the children, my name must not be used - it would destroy the magic."

Spare the rod: Children who are never spanked, or hardly ever spanked, fare better on intelligence tests than children who are frequently spanked, according to a new report from the University of New Hampshire. It could be because parents who do not spank their children spend more time talking to them and reasoning with them, a researcher said.

Spice of life

PARENTS WORRIED about the corrupting influence of groups like the Spice Girls on their young children need worry no longer - if, that is, researchers at the University of York are right. They questioned girls aged six to eight about the Spice Girls and discovered that the - er - more adult aspects of these young ladies went over the children's heads. The sexual aspects and innuendos of girl-power might turn some older chaps on but six-year-olds? No way, according to Krista Cowman and Ann Kaloski, of the Centre for Women's Studies. Sporty Spice and Baby Spice (am I really writing these names?) proved the most popular "because they behave more like eight-year-olds. Young fans feel the Spice Girls copy them and not the other way around", the researchers found. And get this: high heels were a turn-off - but tracksuits were "cool". The youngsters cocked a childish snook at Posh Spice and found her image part of an "alien adult world". Did they buy Spice Girl goods? No. They had better things on which to spend their pocket money. Any expensive Spice products turned out to be gifts from adults. And they were unsolicited at that.

Anyone for cricket?

Well, not anyone. RESEARCH CONDUCTED by the Southampton Institute and the University of East London discovered two crickets: black and Asian cricket, being played in urban areas in public parks and in a "spirit of competitiveness", and white cricket, played in rural areas, on private grounds as a social occasion - in other words, the traditional ritual

of English cricket. The relationship between these two cultures is not equal, according to the authors, Ian McDonald and Sharda Ugra, whose report, *Anyone for Cricket?*, is published by the Centre for New Ethnicities Research, University of East London, at £9.95. White clubs have the power to keep out black and Asian teams from the official Sunday leagues. A kind of cricket apartheid has developed. And, as far as I am concerned, that's not cricket.

WORD OF MOUTH

JOHN IZBICKI

The net costs

STUDENTS AND staff of universities and colleges throughout the UK have, for a nominal subscription fee that is paid by their employers, enjoyed limitless access to the Internet from the day that it was introduced. But since last week this perk has ceased to be quite so free. Quarterly bills are to be sent to institutions from November with a fortnight's notice to pay-or-else. Non-payment could result in dis-

connection. I hear that those Web pages and Internet data piped to institutions from America could cost anything from 10 grand to a hundred grand a year, depending on the frequency of use. The charges will no doubt end indiscriminate net surfing. Perhaps one will have to feed 10p pieces to meters fitted to each computer. There might even be a squad of Internet police patrolling campuses to check on whether students are conducting bona fide

research or playing computer games.

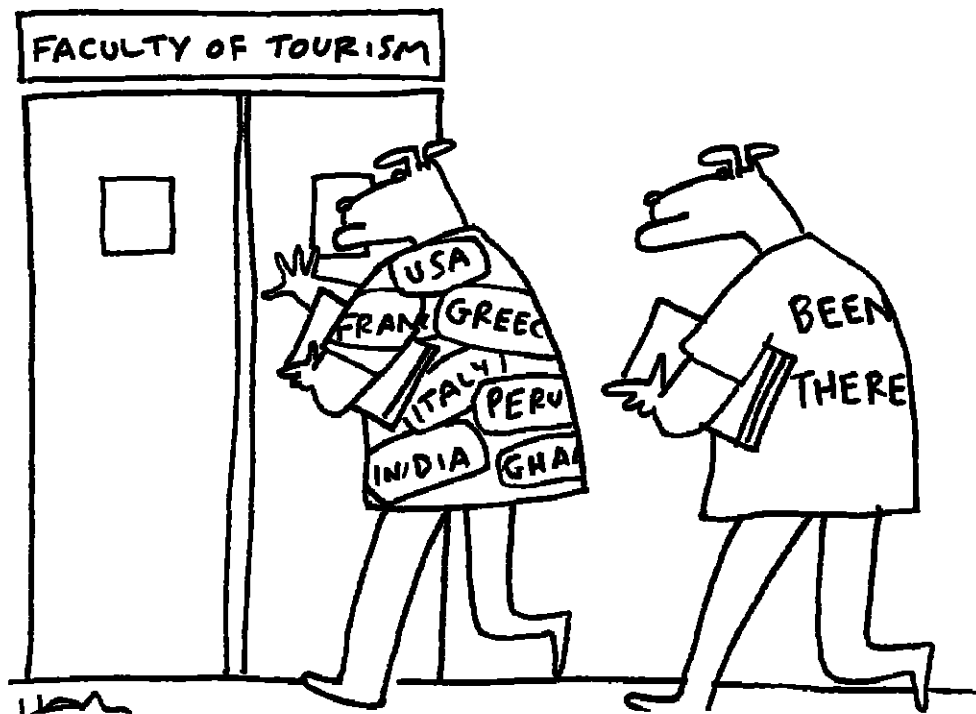
Alumnus? So ask

WHEN IS an alumnus not an alumnus? That, in a nutshell, is what emeritus professor David Tabor wanted to know. So he penned a letter to London University's School of Oriental and African Studies to ask. He obtained his PhD in physical chemistry from Cambridge University in 1938 and took a job at a small research laboratory near the city centre. Then came the war - and Soas was evacuated to Cambridge. At a local synagogue, the young Dr Tabor met Dr Isidor Wartski who lectured in modern Hebrew at Soas. Tabor was invited to join a few others - all Cambridge undergraduates - at a weekly seminar Wartski had organised. Did this one term at a Soas seminar make Tabor an alumnus? It would appear so, since the school has been sending him regular copies of its alumni newsletter.

And finally...

I HAVE just received a short letter from an insurance company (I'll not name and shame it here). It contained more than a dozen spelling, grammatical and punctuation mistakes. Spelling errors were of quite simple words: received (twice), pursuing, position (twice), confirmation. If the writer was dyslexic, should not someone else have checked the letter before sending it to a client? Commas and full stops were in the wrong places. Words that had no right to be there suddenly appeared - viz "for the a up to date position of their and claim and we anticipate confirmation". Now, let's all sigh together: "Education, education, education."

HAM



20/11/2015

FAST TRACK

GRADUATING TO THE WORLD OF WORK

Last night a DJ saved my career

Partying can disrupt many a student's studies. But it's the making of some who go on to be DJs or club promoters. By Alister Morgan

University life is all about working hard and playing hard – most students hope that the former will land them with a great job, but increasing numbers are realising a terrible hangover is not the only thing that comes with the latter. Hundreds of clubs and venues (an increasing number of which are owned and run by colleges and student unions) are offering students a glimpse of a possible future career as a club promoter or DJ.

Job prospects for disc jockeys have changed drastically over the past 30 years. In the Seventies a successful DJ could, after a noteworthy stint on a pirate or commercial station, expect to win a slot on BBC radio. Once established with *Auntie*, the lucky few had the chance to reach one of the triple towers of success that represent DJ career zenith: A breakfast show slot, the Sunday Night Top 40 show or the Holy Grail itself... *Top of the Pops*.

The explosion of modern club culture in the late Eighties transformed the employment landscape, however. A residency at one of the hundreds of clubs that the dance music revolution inspired encouraged thousands of "bedroom" and student DJs to pursue a clubbing career. Today, Britain's club industry is a multi-million pound business and universally recognised as the biggest of its kind in the world. Its top DJs are international stars – style mag icons, courted by top clubs who fly them around the globe to grace their record decks for a couple of hours.

In 1998, the distinction between radio DJs and club DJs could not be more stark. While it is certainly true that many successful club DJs appear on the radio, "success" in clubland depends solely on credibility. The right music and the all-important ability to mix records is the foundation for any successful club DJ.

Playing two or three slots on Friday and Saturday night, a popular DJ can earn between £1,000 and £2,000 a week. "Super DJs" (the likes of Pete Tong, Paul Oakenfold, Sasha, Carl Cox, Goldie and Allister Whitehead) can command more than £1,000 a night, in addition to the lucrative income from international bookings and remixing and producing work.

Best of all, you don't need any formal qualifications – just patience, determination and practice. "I always believed that things would work out," says "Super DJ" Carl Cox. "I knew what I had, in terms of making people happy, so I didn't really wait for the phone to ring. I went out there and did it – there's always a hall to be hired."

"Sometimes I got £30, £50 or £2, but I always believed that something would come up and that I could make a living as a DJ."

Club promoters require similar drive, ambition and imagination, and also do not require a licence to practise. Promoters create the concept, name the event, hire



Anju Nimalananda started DJing four years ago and has worked at clubs such as Cake and The Blue Note

Neville Elder

the DJs (usually "bedroom" DJs who will play for free for the chance to build a reputation), other staff, print and distribute flyers, then you sit back and wait for the crowds to roll in.

First, though, the promoter has to find a venue and convince the owner that you have created the best idea for a club night since the dawn of time. After securing an unfashionable weeknight spot (all the best venues have their successful promotions on Friday and Saturday nights), you are on your way. A magnanimous owner will let a promoter keep the money from the door, but it is not uncommon for owners to take a percentage in addition to revenue from the bar. If no one turns up, owners are unlikely to be patient; there are dozens of other promoters eager to try their luck.

Prospective DJs require persistence, contacts and a thick slice of luck. DJ Heav-

en, for instance, currently a resident DJ every Friday at London superclub Ministry of Sound (MoS), got her foot in the door by sending the club one of her mix tapes. A few months later she was signed and flying to Australia to DJ on a MoS tour.

Signing for one of the big-name clubs is a dream for many DJs, but it's not the only way to obtain work. Many agencies sign up-and-coming DJs and chase bookings for their acts. Any DJ offered such a contract should read the small print first as the agreement can be restrictive. If a DJ signed to an agency finds work independently, for instance, the agency may still be entitled to around 30 per cent of the fee. Moreover, many agency contracts stipulate that payments must be made up to six months after the termination of a contract.

When you consider that most promoters know their DJs personally, an agency con-

tract may not, on balance, be the best vehicle. By far the best method of finding work is getting to know the clubs and their promoters personally. Unlike many other industries, the highly sociable nature of clubs makes it easy to contact promoters who are always on the look out for new talent.

Anju Nimalananda is aged 20 and has been DJing for around four years. Recently she's been working at Cake, a night at The Blue Note, a fashionable London club, but she is not about to give up her day job with the Performing Rights Society. "It's still a hobby in many ways because the work comes and goes," she said. "Until you're up with the top DJs, you can't really rely on the income as clubs come and go."

Most DJs claim they are driven by love of the music rather than fame or riches, and a significant proportion of their income goes on records. Ultimately, DJs say, it is

the thrill of controlling a dancefloor that keeps them coming back for more. "It's a real buzz," says Anju. "Once you've played in a big club and done well you want to keep going. My most memorable set was playing the Ashram night, at Adrenaline Village on New Year's Eve. There were about 2,000 people, and everyone looked so carefree and happy. The whole place was jumping."

She is currently working on Mirage, a pirate station, as a guest DJ. A regular slot will increase her exposure and give her credentials a healthy boost, as will a forthcoming booking at London's premier garage club, Garage City.

"I went down to the office to give one of the promoters a tape I'd put together," she said. "I wasn't really nervous but I got a real grilling from one of the promoters before they booked me. I'm on the same bill as top DJs, and it's a chance to prove myself."

PICK 'N' MIX:
HOW TO GET
STARTED

DJ at college. Many have excellent venues and offer a great training ground. You'll discover that playing in a large venue is nothing like mixing records at home.

Choose one type of dance music. If you're going to buy vinyl regularly you'll find it will be very expensive, so don't spread yourself too thin.

It's good to talk. Approach promoters and strike up a conversation – even just a few words. The best promoters speak to everyone and remember faces.

Always carry your own headphones. Many venues will not have any.

Practice mixing. It doesn't guarantee success but you can't succeed without mixing skills. Test yourself by mixing "blind" (randomly selecting records). It's okay to plan part of your set but you must be able to react to the mood on the floor.

Buy good equipment: You can learn on a range of decks but in the end it all comes down to Technics. Forget CD mixers – Technics decks are the industry benchmark. A pair of Technics and a mixer will cost around £700.

Make up mix tapes: Promoters will receive dozens of these a year but they do listen to most. Try to be as innovative as possible so your sound stands out from the crowd.

Find a good record shop: Get to know the people on the other side of the counter – it can mean discounts, white labels and introductions to industry contacts.

Play any slot: DJs can be quite egotistical. When you're starting out, play any slot and take consolation from the fact you're gaining valuable experience.

Buy a lock box: Whether working at a house party of a club you'll have to leave your records unattended at some point and vinyl has a habit of disappearing.

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

ICELAND

Age: 28.

History: The entrepreneur Malcolm Walker, Iceland's current chairman, formerly worked for Woolworths as a trainee manager, but, after making a modest profit on a sale of strawberries, he decided to invest in a small store in Oswestry, Shropshire. His wife and business partner's wife worked in the very first Iceland, with rented freezers and food on credit, but when Woolworths found out about the competition the men were fired – and that's when Iceland really took off.

The pair continued to open small stores in Wales in the Seventies, and in 1984 the company was floated on the stock market, oversubscribed a record 113 times. After a hostile takeover of the chain Bejam in 1989 and taking on the running of Littlewoods' food halls in 1993, Iceland now has 780 stores around the country.

Address: Head office is near Chester on an industrial park, with about 700 staff and a distribution centre. There's also a white goods division based in Stanmore, in north-west London.

Ambience: Open-plan, informal. "People say 'What do you put in the vending machines?' because staff seem so happy and motivated," says a spokeswoman. The culture encourages openness and frankness. "We want people to stand up and be counted for their opinions and to be confident about their marketability."

Vital statistics: Turnover was £1.56bn last year, with



operating profits of £64.8m.

About 20,000 people work for the company, which will develop 200 or so new products under its own label each year.

Lifestyle: Hours are long if you are working in retail, particularly in London stores.

Head office: Employees work normal hours, with half an hour for lunch. Distribution workers have to work flexible shifts.

Easy to get into? Apparently not. The company says it receives a "huge number" of applications for its trainee scheme; it sifts candidates on assessment days, and only those with a 2.1 degree – particularly in a business-related discipline – need apply.

Glittering alumni: Not many, although Iceland found fame in the Eighties with the catchy commercial by ad agency Tom Reddy that featured the punchline "Mum's gone to Iceland". The ensuing campaigns ("Iceland makes life easy" and "Britain's fastest growing retailer") haven't been such a hit.

Pay: Those who start at head office get £14,500, with a pay rise every six months until the end of the two-year training programme, when all survivors are guaranteed a management position at £17,000-£18,000.

Training: It's a mixture of courses, seminars and workshops; there is also a mentor scheme, in which you meet once a fortnight to practice presentations and run through problems. A spokeswoman says Iceland sponsors some staff on MBA courses, too.

Facilities: There's an unusual subsidised restaurant at head office, featuring a Harley-Davidson motorbike.

"The place is like an American diner and it's a real experience to go in there," says a spokeswoman. "There's nothing to do in this industrial park, but you go in and get away from it all. It's fun; there's a free-vend jukebox."

Who's the boss? Malcolm Walker is chairman and chief executive.

Dutch courage leads to success

CV

ROBERT BONNIER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE
£200M COMPANY, SCOOT FREEPAGES

ROBERT BONNIER, 28, is chief executive of Scoot Freepages, an information service that connects consumers to businesses – chiefly, to date, by telephone. Two years ago the company was valued at about £200m. Its young Dutch boss started in business early, dealing in the financial market when he was just 14 years old.

I grew up in a town called Tilburg in Holland and moved to England when I was 19. When I was 14, I hurt my hand playing football. The hospital made a mess of my fingers and I got a small compensation pay-out – around £500. I used the money to buy my first shares.

From a very early age I became interested in analysing companies. I would even read all of their annual reports and then, on the back of that, decide whether it was a suitable business opportunity.

My father was involved in the equity market, and so he was able to help me. I was quite fortunate as the value of my equity holdings rose rapidly.

The money grew very quickly to a few thousand pounds. I suppose I could have used it as extra pocket money, but I continued to invest. I had all sorts of jobs when I was young, which taught me about business: I worked on factory floors and at a paint shop, and I cleaned and prepared cars for distribution.

All the while, I was building up a nice level of capital rather than spending it in nightclubs.

When I was 17, a friend and I formed a small group with which we started to attract capital by investing in the markets. Again, I was fortunate because we made big returns and so my capital base continued to grow.

At college, I did a bachelor of business administration degree,



Robert Bonnier capitalised on childhood misfortune

which was an American programme. The first year was in Holland, the second was in France and the third at the Schiller International College in London. Then after that, aged 21, I started to work in the City for the Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC).

I became a corporate finance manager and started to get particularly interested in the media and technology sector.

After nearly four years at SBC I became involved with the start-up of a company called Freepages. What I was struck by was the way that consumer purchasing was

changing. You could see this in firms such as First Direct, which sold insurance over the phone.

And Freepages – which we re-branded Scooter Freepages – fell into that basic concept. Really we are what I call an "infomediary" – helping consumers to make their purchasing decisions in the most efficient manner.

I came on board as the chief financial officer, responsible for operational activities and for developing business strategy. We lost some money in the early days but the City has always been confident of our potential.

Two years ago the business was valued by the alternative investment market at £200m.

We have expanded into Europe with Scoot Holland and Scoot Belgium, and one day hope to be Europe-wide. Over the past three or four years I've invested around a couple of million pounds in the company. And when Nigel Robertson – who had been a leading figure with the original concept – wanted to move on, it was natural that I stepped up to chief executive.

In the past, I said that leisure time is the drive into and back from work. But though there is still a strong work ethic here, that's changed for me since getting married earlier this year.

My life has become more balanced, which is good because I think that you need to reflect in peace on everything that's going on. That's particularly true in the quickly changing environment we are operating in.

I would advise people coming into business first of all to understand the industry you want to work in. Get a number of the skill sets you will need by working in a company with a relatively protective environment. Also, you must know what the key drivers of the industry are.

In a world that is changing so rapidly, you can't do 200 things at once. If you have a good idea, develop it well and make sure you know the negatives as well as the positives. There are very few people like Bill Gates, who can come out of university and develop one of the most valuable companies in the world.

I think I did well to do what I did as early as I did. And I still manage to play the odd game of football.

INTERVIEW BY
MARK OLIVER

Handwritten signature: 15/08/98

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IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB...

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NEW FILMS

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

Director: Betty Thomas
Starring: Eddie Murphy, Oliver Platt, Ossie Davis
If Eddie Murphy had taken the role of Dr Dolittle at the start of his career, the prospect of him talking to the animals would have been enough to clear his name. In the toughest neighbourhoods, here is an actor whose career was built on the record-breaking number of profanities he could squeeze into any given sentence. The thought of Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one, but in the snappy new film version of *Dr Dolittle*, he shows that his talents are more pliable than they might first have appeared.

Betty Thomas is a director with a deft comic touch, and she wisely neglects to milk the story's whimsical undertones, and instead wastes no time dishing up what you have come to see: a suicidal tiger, a sozzled monkey, and a pigeon which hopes one day to be mistaken for a bluejay. I don't know how it compares with the London stage revival, but if it is but jokes and flabbergasted rodents you demand, then you don't need me to tell you that the Philip Schofield model probably will not meet your requirements.

CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MONK DAWSON (18)

Director: Tom Waller
Starring: John Michie, Ben Taylor, Paula Hamilton
You can just about discern the honourable intentions hiding within *Monk Dawson*. But far better to enjoy the film for the hotch-potch of melodrama and sensationalism that it is, rather than the searing social parable it longs to be. Eddie is a Catholic priest who finds temptation in his parish. He succumbs, loses his faith, becomes a journalist, and takes to the party circuit, where he offers to conduct a black mass over the body of a naked virgin.

The conflict of faith and fallibility has been the basis for pertinent character studies before, from *I Confess* to *Lamb*, but *Monk Dawson's* director, Tom Waller, and writer, James Maguire, let too many other ambitions clutter the film, so that everything feels glib.

CW: Odeon Haymarket, Virgin Fulham Road

PSYCHO (15)

Director: Alfred Hitchcock
Starring: Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh
See *The Independent Recommends*
CW: Chelsea Cinema

LOST IN SPACE (PG)

Director: Tom Waller
Starring: William Hurt, Gary Oldman, Matt LeBlanc
In 2058, environmental breakdown has conspired to place the planet in the cosmic coconut shy, but scientist Dr John Robinson (William Hurt) has formulated a nifty escape plan, proposing that mankind upstumps to Alpha Prime. He and his family saddle up for the full 10-year trek there to pave the way. However, a stowaway terrorist (Gary Oldman) sabotages the expedition and sends the Robinsons off course.

Lost in Space is an expensive version of the eponymous cult 1960s television series, but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone. And the movie looks terrific. Every surface, from door panel to hull, is alluringly spongy; tabletops seem soft enough to sink your fingers into. Rubber, and rubber-effect, is very big: the plates of body armour look like they would protect you from sexually transmitted diseases but not much else; they are almost as alive as the people inside them, or, in the case of William Hurt, more so.

CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the dinosaur ideal for the more understanding pre-school viewer, but an endurance test for anyone else. **CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero**

THE CASTLE (15)

When his family home is threatened with demolition to make way for an airport, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caine) stands up for his rights. File under quirky Australian kitsch. **CW: Barbican Screen, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero**

DANCE OF THE WIND (U)

Indian television star Kitu Gidwani plays Pallavi, a singer of Hindustani classical music who dries up on stage following the death of her mother. The delicate music and stately camerawork help build a hypnotic atmosphere but they can't stop it from feeling like a short film dragged out beyond its natural length. **CW: Renior**

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

Worried that her publisher husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the family wants to accompany her to confront him. First-time writer-director Greg Mottola charts the tensions of the family car journey with wit and compassion. **CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End**

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)

The routine level of so much in *The Gingerbread Man* disappoints on every front. Odd fragments remind you that there have been a great director marking time. When Robert Duvall's buddies spring him from an asylum in a weird nocturnal dance of silver and purple, we glimpse the fugitive ghost of another, less formulaic sort of film. **CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Notting Hill, Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End**

GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up such blockbusters as *StarGate* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun. Unfortunately in this tale of a giant lizard rampaging through the streets of New York, their light touch has deserted them. **CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road**

LA GRANDE ILLUSION (U)

Jean Renoir's 1937 classic has First World War prisoner of war Pierre Fresnay finding he has more in common with his courteous German captor, Erich von Stroheim, than with his proletarian comrades. This is the tenderest of war movies. **CW: Screen on the Hill**

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. **CW: Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero**

HANA-BI (18)

Director-star Kitano picked up the Golden Lion at last year's Venice Film Festival with this violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life. **CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green**

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Documentary investigating the death of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and the conspiracy theories which emerged in the wake of the event. **CW: ABC Piccadilly, Rio Cinema, Screen on Baker Street**

LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (DAS LEBEN IST EINE BAUSTELLE) (18)

An original black comedy about a young, possibly HIV-positive Berlin butcher stumbling through what passes for a love life. **CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema**

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)

After years of churning out sub-standard animated features, this sprightly adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story - rereleased for the summer holidays - began a string of hits for the newly rejuvenated Disney Studios. Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare. **CW: Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*
CW: Metro, Curzon Minema, Virgin Haymarket

MAD CITY (15)

Dustin Hoffman plays a reporter who chances upon a hostage situation in a museum, where John Travolta has produced a gun in an effort to get his job back. **CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks and sounds even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep most parents entertained. **CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dreams of wedding vows by being gay. **CW: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket**

PAULIE (U)

Once the muse of indie legend John Cassavetes, Gena Rowlands is now starring with a talking parrot - well, that's showbusiness. Voiced by Jay Mohr (best known over here as Jerry Cruise's backstabbing rival agent in *Jerry Maguire*), Paulie is a wisecracking bird who takes a wry look at human foibles in this likeable kids' movie. **CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Action man Harrison Ford here tries to reinvent himself as a romantic lead by playing a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Reche) on a remote island. The director, Ivan Reitman, has adopted an old-fashioned approach which stretches to implausible contrivances. With David Schwimmer. **CW: Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

THE THIEF (15)

In his investigation into the psyche of a six-year-old Russian boy in the aftermath of the Second World War, writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for the unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off. *The Thief* is a familiar story, told with competence, but it is only the acting, performed with great passion, which makes this film special. **CW: Renior**

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy which makes the most of its Eighties pastiches. A hopelessly romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live's* Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to discover that she is already engaged to someone else. **CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End**

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey



IT MAY ALL have been just a macabre joke to Hitchcock, as so many things were, but *Psycho* (left) now looks like a textbook lesson in how to pre-empt, manipulate and boot-strap an audience's expectations. The surface of the picture is one of elegant control, but from the fractured Saul Bass title sequence onwards, you know that something isn't quite right. That first part of the movie is my favourite - the sense of barely sustained banality beneath which immoral acts are being conceived. And that's before the Bates Motel appears in all its rickety glory.

On general release
Love and Death on Long Island is still around. Who would have thought that a love-story about an ageing English writer's obsession with an American teen idol could engage so well with audiences? But then the writer-director Richard Kwietniowski has some tricks up his sleeve, a talent for translating ideas into images, and John Hurt, our national treasure.

On general release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

THE PREMIERE OF a new translation of Racine's *Phedre* by Ted Hughes launches an unmissable three-week festival which brings the Almeida's latest projects to the recently refurbished Malvern theatres. After astonishing the West End and Broadway with their 1992 version, Jonathan Kent again directs Diana Rigg (right) in the title role of *Medea*. From child-murderer to passion-crazed queen - is another tragic tour de force in the offing? Don't doubt it - there's only this six-day run and a quick stint in Guildford later in August before the inevitable sell-out spell at the Albany in September.

Festival Theatre, Malvern (01684 89277) 8pm



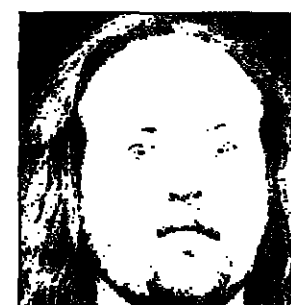
Visual Art Richard Ingleby

THIS YEAR'S Edinburgh Festival kicks off at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art with an enlarged version of the Mona Hatoum show: seen in Oxford earlier this year. On show are 46 works ranging from photographs and videos to fully fledged installations including the deeply disorientating *Current Disturbance*. All rather threatening and occasionally witty. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (0131-556 8821) to 25 Oct. Meanwhile, fresh from Edinburgh, the touring exhibition of Robert Capa's photographs (right) has arrived in London. As you'd expect from one of the century's finest photo-journalists, the emphasis is on war, but there are also some great portraits of his glamorous friends. Photographers' Gallery, 8 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (0171-531 1772) to 12 Sept



Comedy James Rampton

AT THE 'Just For Laughs' Comedy Festival in Montreal last month, US TV execs buzzed around Stewart Lee like moths at a campfire. It's not hard to see why. His stand-up is artfully crafted, possessing an almost musical rhythm. He also does the best - and most thought-provoking - material about the death of Princess Diana I've yet heard. Catch him before Hollywood does. Pleasance Cabaret Bar, Edinburgh (0131-556 6550) 9.25pm. Musical comedy is one of the hardest artforms to pull off - usually neither the music nor the comedy is up to scratch. Bill Bailey (above) gloriously disproves that theory. Who else would think of playing 'Three Blind Mice' in the style of Richard Clayderman? Warehouse Theatre, Croydon (0181-680 4060) 8pm



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-935 9772) @ Baker Street Dr Dolittle 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) @ Piccadilly Circus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 8561) @ Piccadilly Circus Kull & Courtney 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road The Gingerbread Man 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square Squid & The Cat 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road Armageddon 9.05pm, Dr Dolittle 1pm, 3.05pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm, 11.50pm, 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm, 12.00pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm, 10.50pm, 12.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican The Castle 6.15pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-373 3742) @ Sloane Square Psycho 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common The Daytrippers 6.45pm, 9pm, Dr Dolittle 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm, 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm, 12.45pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park The Daytrippers 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle Armageddon 8.10pm, Dr Dolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm, 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm, 12.35pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square The Castle 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm, 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm, 12.20pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate Hana-Bi 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0171-837 0718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Armageddon 6.20pm, 9.15pm, Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm

LOST IN SPACE (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate Hana-Bi 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate Hana-Bi 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus Deep Impact 5.40pm, 8.20pm, Dr Dolittle 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus Deep Impact 5.40pm, 8.20pm, Dr Dolittle 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm, 12.40pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square Dance Of The Wind 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.40pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-737 2121/733 2229) @ Brixton Armageddon 9pm, Ben 10.30am, The Daytrippers 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm, Dr Dolittle 12.45pm, 2.55pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm, 11.20pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm, 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm, 10.55pm, 12.55pm

WARRIOR VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4347) @ Leicester Square The Big Lebowski 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm, City Of Angels 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm, Dr Dolittle 11.40am, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm, The Gingerbread Man 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm

WARRIOR VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4347) @ Leicester Square The Big Lebowski 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm, City Of Angels 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm, Dr Dolittle 11.40am, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm, The Gingerbread Man 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge Life Is All You Get 3pm, 5.50pm, Love And Death On Long Island 5.10pm, 8.50pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate Armageddon 8.20pm, The Gingerbread Man 3pm, 6pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town Armageddon 5.40pm, 8.30pm, The Daytrippers 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, Dr Dolittle 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm, The Gingerbread Man 12.45pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm, 11.50pm, 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.40pm, 7.55pm, 10.10pm, 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm, 11.40pm, 1.55pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm, 10.50pm, 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.60pm, 9.75pm, 11.55pm, 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.60pm, 9.75pm, 11.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus Monk Dawson 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) @ High Street Kensington Armageddon 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 9.10pm, The Castle 7.35pm, 9.50pm, Dr Dolittle 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm, 11.15pm, 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 5.45pm, 7.55pm, 10.05pm, 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 10.65pm, 12.75pm, 2.85pm, 4.95pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm, 11.25pm, 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 5.55pm, 7.65pm, 9.75pm, 11.85pm, 1.95pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm, 10.35pm, 12.45pm, 2.55pm, 4.65pm, 6.75pm, 8.85pm, 10.95pm, 13.05pm, 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 7.45pm, 9.55pm, 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm, 10.55pm, 13.05pm, 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 7.45pm, 9.55pm, 12.05pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square Armageddon 1.1am, 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch Armageddon 1.35am, 2.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.55pm, 11.55pm, Dr Dolittle 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm, 11.15pm, The Gingerbread Man 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm, 11.30am, 2.40pm, 5.50pm, 9pm, Lost In Space 12.30pm, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm, 12.05am

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square The Object Of My Affection 6.15pm, 8.40pm, Screen 6.20pm, 8.35pm, 10.50pm, 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.60pm, 9.75pm, 11.90pm, 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.60pm, 9.75pm, 11.90pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage Armageddon 12.00pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, The Castle 4.50pm, 5.30pm, 9pm, Dr Dolittle 12.25pm, 2.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm, 11.15pm, 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 5.45pm, 7.55pm, 9.65pm, 11.75pm, 1.85pm, 3.95pm, 6.05pm, 8.15pm, 10.25pm, 12.35pm, 2.45pm, 4.55pm, 6.65pm, 8.75pm, 10.85pm, 12.95pm, 1.05pm, 3.15pm, 5.25pm, 7.35pm, 9.45pm, 11.55pm, 1.65pm, 3.75pm, 5.85pm,

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-99.9MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Mark Goodier. 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow: Kevin and Zoe move the roadshow to Middlesbrough. 12.30 Newsbeat: All the news, all the facts. 12.45 Jo Wiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session. 8.30 Global Update. 8.40 John Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Clive Warren.

Radio 2
(88-92MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester: Entertainment news, a Brain Buster, the Accumulator Quiz and regular travel updates. 5.05 John Dunn: Including the Mystery Voice competition. 7.00 David Allen. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Stand Up 2: Richard Morton hosts a series spotlighting the best in stand-up comedy. 9.30 The Russ Abbot Show. 10.00 Greatest Singles of All Time. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00 - 4.00 Annie Other.

RADIO 3
(93.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Proms Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Elgar. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 BBC Proms 98. 2.00 The Piano. 4.45 Quartet. 5.00 In Tune. 7.00 BBC Proms 98. 7.45 Who Was John Foulds? Malcolm MacDonald presents a portrait of the English composer (1860-1939), who spent much of his life in France and India. See Pick of the Day.

PICK OF THE DAY

NOT SO LONG ago, America was the place where black identity was forged, and young British blacks borrowed their ideas on the subject from there. In "Drum and Bass", the first part of a new series on race, A Second Generation (8.30pm R4), Ekow Eshun (right) argues that young black Britons have now forged a new identity, independent of the American experience, a culture that's more diverse and exciting.



ROBERT HANES

London's Roundhouse. In its 67 rooms, fictitious characters dream and scheme their way to the end of the century. (R) 9.45 Images of the Far East. Piano music by Debussy inspired by the sounds of the Japanese gamelan. 10.00 BBC Proms 98. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, London. Music and dance from the Japanese royal courts and cross-cultural music by Alec Roth for The Tempest to mark the 20th anniversary of the arrival of a Japanese gamelan in London. Performed by dancers and musicians from STS1 Surakarta South Bank Gamelan Players. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Handel. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 A Hard Act to Follow. 9.30 The Vale. 9.45 Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Crossing Continents. 11.30 No Commitments. 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Puzzle Panel. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: The Whispering Tree. 3.00 NEWS: Cal You and Yours (0171) 580 4444. 3.30 A Childhood of Play. (R) 3.45 Amy's Orchids.

3.30 The Material World. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Booked. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.45 Front Row. The five nightly arts programme. 7.45 Postcards: On the Rocks. By Helen Kugel. Seizing Sydney Sachet, facing American debt, steps out of Hollywood into Portlamb. Can the locals cope as filming begins? Or, more to the point, can they act? With Lorelei King and Tristan Sturrock. Director Pauline Harris (4/5). 8.00 NEWS: Document. A four-part series of the programme that investigates an event in history through new or recently released evidence. 2. "The Third Room". Christopher Cook pieces together the strange Cold War history of the Information Research Department and George Orwell's contribution to it. 8.30 A Second Generation. Four programmes in which Ekow Eshun tracks the emerging identity of black Britain. 1. "Drum and Bass". From the basement bars and high streets of Britain comes a new hybrid form of music - one that reflects the cultural mix of this country's inner cities. Will America grudgingly take up this innovative sound? See Pick of the Day. 9.00 NEWS: Hotlines. "Crime". The police have access to an impressive array of hi-tech gadgetry, but so do lawbreakers. Jez Nelson explores the future of crime. 9.30 A Hard Act to Follow. Eight

6.00 The Breakfast Programme. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Gower's Cricket Weekly. David Gower and his guests are in Leeds tonight at the end of the first day of the Fifth Test between England and South Africa. Call free on 0500-909893. 9.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team investigate the various issues that affect the sporting world. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including the day's sports round-up at 10.30, a late-night news briefing at 11.00, and 11.15 The Paul O'Grady World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerts. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 2.00 Concerts. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(125.1-126.0kHz MW 105.9MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Robin Barker/FM Only Play Cakes from 6.45pm. 7.30 Play Cakes. 10.00 Pat Coyne. 1.00 Peter Poulton. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsday. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Composer of the Month. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Focus on Faith. 4.00 World News. 4.05 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO
The New Talk Radio Breakfast Show. Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deely. 7.00 Nick Abbot. 9.00 James Whitley. 1.00 Collins. 5.00 - 6.30 The Early Show with Bill Overton.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (5490902). 7.30 Neighbours (605457). 7.55 EastEnders (871149). 8.30 The Bill (643709). 9.00 The Bill (643709). 9.30 Dangerfield (629705). 10.30 The Sullivan (644273). 11.00 Dallas (603325). 11.55 Neighbours Omnibus (633216). 12.25 EastEnders (871525). 1.00 Al Crutcher's Great and Small (763449). 2.00 Dallas (603446). 2.55 The Bill (643709). 3.25 The Bill (643709). 3.55 Dangerfield (629705). 4.25 EastEnders (871149). 4.55 The Bill (643709). 5.25 Home to Roost (708377). 6.00 Al Crutcher's Great and Small (763449). 7.00 2point4 Children (776544). 7.40 Dads Army (630780). 8.20 Carned Carrot (661617). 9.00 Bugs (622009). 9.05 Bottom (277728). 10.45 The Comic Strip Presents (653677). 11.45 The Bill (643709). 12.05 The Bill (643709). 12.35 Live at Jinglemas (762232). 1.05 The Equalizer (659129). 1.55 The Equalizer (659129). 2.30 - 7.00 Shopping at Night (650295).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (690409). 9.00 Ronalds (647273). 9.50 Jerry Springer (630109). 10.40 Young and the Restless (638252). 11.30 Brookside (667493). 12.00 Jimmy's (648070). 12.35 Sports Special (780367). 1.00 Rescue 911 (650292). 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (661617). 2.05 Ronalds (677772). 2.55 Living It Up! (625915). 3.55 Jerry Springer (630109). 4.45 Tempest (625241). 5.35 Ready, Steady, Cook (661617). 6.30 Jerry Springer (630109). 7.00 Rescue 911 (650292). 7.30 Jimmy's (648070). 7.55 Sports Special (780367). 8.25 Sports Special (780367). 8.55 Sports Special (780367). 9.25 Sports Special (780367). 9.55 Sports Special (780367). 10.25 Sports Special (780367). 10.55 Sports Special (780367). 11.25 Sports Special (780367). 11.55 Sports Special (780367). 12.25 Sports Special (780367). 12.55 Sports Special (780367). 1.00 Sports Special (780367). 1.30 Sports Special (780367). 1.55 Sports Special (780367). 2.25 Sports Special (780367). 2.55 Sports Special (780367). 3.25 Sports Special (780367). 3.55 Sports Special (780367). 4.25 Sports Special (780367). 4.55 Sports Special (780367). 5.25 Sports Special (780367). 5.55 Sports Special (780367). 6.25 Sports Special (780367). 6.55 Sports Special (780367). 7.25 Sports Special (780367). 7.55 Sports Special (780367). 8.25 Sports Special (780367). 8.55 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THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

"I THINK THE word critic suggests an insect that eats its way through the world of the young for pleasure," said the comedian Dylan Moran at the beginning of *Critical Condition* (C5). Jon Ross's entertaining examination of those who pick nits for a living isn't sure that Moran's analogy quite works - for one thing, critics eat other people's children, and their own their intellects, after all, is usually the first accusation on the charge sheet. And the eating, when it happens, is not exactly pleasurable, more a forcing down of something unpleasant. I've got no qualms about "theatre", though - having long believed that parasitism is a perfectly acceptable epithet for the function I currently practise. Critics who forget that they exist in a condition of dependence on the efforts of others have forgotten something important. There are connotations, naturally. Some parasites can be indispensable to the healthy working of a system, and in an age when the billions of publicity and hype command the field critics can provide a needed gentle resistance, picking out the blocked and the overdone, what's more, at their best, the parasites can even transform ephemeral excess into something more durable - it required to choose between saying "Foolish idea!" or "The work is brilliant, but I would not get my hands dirty by writing about it." That said, it was undeniably entertaining to see Shuttleworth floundering at the prospect that the five-star review might have one of its stars docked by *The Scotsman* editorial team, who had clearly become concerned about the editorial quality of the *Edinburgh Festival*, it featured Ian Shuttleworth, sometime reviewer of comedy for the *Financial Times*, who had taken the brave decision to put on his own one-man show, *James Christopher*, an occasional critic for *The Times*, though - badly second, though - badly declining that Shuttleworth's show was "brilliant". After arriving halfway through the performance, he was filmed on the back row of an almost empty auditorium giving his verdict on every quip - a hilarious transformation of the way comedy is usually displayed at other venues. He also got Shuttleworth through to the first cut of the *Perrin*

Perrin - the stand-up Oscar - an honour which, along with a glowing review from another friend, Ayra, propelled him into a spot on the *Late 7/7 Live* show at the Gilded Ballroom, an Edinburgh showcase at which the audience is largely composed of stand-up comedians. At the beginning of the film, Christopher had been seen declaring that "watching people die on stage is one of the great sports of the Edinburgh festival", a callow remark presented for our disapproval. But with Shuttleworth's spot, Rossman exploded that pleasure for himself. Shuttleworth didn't just die - he was tortured to death, with the comedians Sean Hughes and Dylan Moran leading the pack. Rossman's manner, sometimes deadpan, sometimes gallingly innocent, is well-suited to the medical and funny too, but his film was conspicuously rickety in less accessible places - the description of Christopher as "the U.S. critic for *The Times*" elevated his status considerably in order to suggest that this was the critical establishment we were watching, rather than some incidental players covering a scene well-known for its lunatic excess. There's also something of a self-filling nature about the film - in that all the critics who might have given a more sensible account of what they do were far too sensible to take part.

That said, it was undeniably entertaining to see Shuttleworth floundering at the prospect that the five-star review might have one of its stars docked by *The Scotsman* editorial team, who had clearly become concerned about the editorial quality of the *Edinburgh Festival*, it featured Ian Shuttleworth, sometime reviewer of comedy for the *Financial Times*, who had taken the brave decision to put on his own one-man show, *James Christopher*, an occasional critic for *The Times*, though - badly second, though - badly declining that Shuttleworth's show was "brilliant". After arriving halfway through the performance, he was filmed on the back row of an almost empty auditorium giving his verdict on every quip - a hilarious transformation of the way comedy is usually displayed at other venues. He also got Shuttleworth through to the first cut of the *Perrin*

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

- 9.00 Business Breakfast** (55525). **7.00 News** (7) (20209). **9.00 Killy** (7) (5) (628693). **9.40 What Now?** (5) (6255883). **10.05 Easy Money** (5) (148231). **10.30 Good Neighbours** (5) (683544). **10.40 News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (672318).
- 10.50 Cricket - Fifth Test: England vs South Africa.** Live coverage of the morning's play in the deciding test at Headingley (5) (2848070).
- 1.00 News: Weather** (7) (65186). **1.30 Regional News and Weather** (6868273). **1.40 Neighbours** (5) (7) (2704631). **2.05 Ferry Mission: The Case of the Deliant Daughter** (5) (5) (651070).
- 3.35 Children's BBC: Pingu** (7) (18079). **3.40 Playdays** (7) (5) (678822). **4.00 Popeye** (7) (68728). **4.10 The Muppet Show** (7) (685146). **4.30 Cartoon Cinema** (5) (7) (645630). **4.40 Newsround** (5) (7) (640877). **5.10 The Name Game** (5) (7) (733506).
- 5.35 Neighbours.** Asad and Holly die in mysterious circumstances, it says here. Very jolly (5) (7) (734070).
- 6.00 News: Weather** (7) (761).
- 6.30 Regional News** (7) (341).
- 7.00 Value for Money.** Las Vegas weddings and top-of-the-range patisserie are put through their paces by Vanessa Feltz and her fellow consumer champs (5) (7) (6253).
- 7.30 EastEnders.** Set as it may seem, the holidaying EastEnders are feeling homed (5) (7) (623).
- 8.00 [GOLF] Changing Rooms.** Carol Smith, Linda Barker and Anne Ryder Richardson descend on Shrewsbury. See *Dr Show of the Day*, below (5) (7) (6853).
- 8.30 The Heale Chis.** Johnny proposes to a pregnant Sue! In the original Derby television drama (5) (7) (7450).
- 9.00 News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (7612).
- 9.30 The Broker's Man.** "Payback." Two children are presumed drowned after they disappear during an adventure weekend. Although the bodies are not recovered, their parents sue the local authorities for negligence. Enter Kevin Whately's insurance investigator (5) (7) (651416).
- 10.30 Medicine Women.** Follows intrepid nurse nurse Alice Danney from a 1940s London children's hospital to the aftermath of a bloody coup in the Congo (5) (7) (67253).

- 7.00 Children's BBC: Open a Door** (7) (683863). **7.05 Teletubbies** (5) (685532). **7.30 Barrie** (7) (227876). **7.40 Smurfs' Adventures** (7) (633025). **8.10 Get Your Own Back** (5) (7) (2025709). **8.35 X-Men** (5) (7) (644932). **8.55 Kamen and Kai** (5) (7) (682276). **9.35 Ocean Odyssey** (7) (5) (628692). **10.00 Tom and Jerry Kids** (148102). **10.25 Secret Life of Toys** (7) (5) (620964). **10.45 Teletubbies** (7) (5) (685548). **11.15 Tomica** (5) (686255). **11.50 The New Adventures of Superman** (680303). **2.35 The Flintstones** (488102).
- 1.00 The Beechgrove Garden** (5) (23729). **1.30 Consuming Passions** (5) (6256273).
- 1.35 Cricket - Fifth Test: England vs South Africa.** Continued live coverage of the fifth test from Headingley, as the series suddenly sits some minutes nationally thanks to England's success at Trent Bridge, introduced by Tony Lewis, with commentary by Richie Berrard, David Gower and Geoffrey Boycott (includes at 3.50: News, Regional News, Weather) (5) (7) (734070).
- 6.35 Star Trek: Voyager.** Trekler title corner: the episode was directed by Jonathan Frieser. River from Star Trek, the *New Generation* Voyager is damaged in a Kazon attack, and most of the crew abandon ship (7) (5) (7) (359416).
- 7.10 The Cars: the Star.** Quentin Wilson meets people passionate about Chevrolet Corvettes (7) (5) (42554).
- 7.30 East.** Investigating the apparently growing problem of elderly Asians being rejected by their families (5) (7) (167).
- 8.00 War Walks.** Walking into the sea wearing full British Army kit and uniform, Professor Richard Holmes relives the evacuation of Dunkirk (5) (7) (6825).
- 8.30 Top Gear Waterworld.** Jeremy Clarkson finds out about life on a nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS *Essex* (5) (7) (6032).
- 9.00 The Simpsons.** Marge is jailed when she is convicted of stealing a videotape (5) (7) (594893).
- 9.25 Third Rock from the Sun** (5) (7) (492273).
- 9.45 Top Gear Take 2.** Ties out the HMC Sportsman, a recreation of the Austin Healey 3000 (5) (7) (634381).
- 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks.** Billy Bragg, Dubsair's Sarah Blackwood, and Men Behaving Badly's Neil Morrissey are the repeat guests (7) (5) (7) (27506).
- 10.30 Newswatch.** With Gordon Brewer (7) (65705).

- 6.00 GMTV** (147506). **8.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (5) (7) (67195).
- 10.30 [GOLF] Matters of the Heart** (Michael Ray Rhodes 1980 US). A talented young boy-fighter falls for an older concert pianist (Liane Seymour) in this one-fingered chamber piece (6555032).
- 12.20 Your Show!** (6309506). **12.30 News: Weather** (7) (75544). **1.00 London Today** (7) (62554). **1.30 Lunch in the Sun** (751700). **2.15 Home and Away** (686098). **2.45 Supermarket Sweep** (7) (5) (350070). **3.45 ITN News Headlines** (472907). **3.50 London Today** (7) (4728883).
- 3.25 Children's ITV: Toile TV** (7) (475508). **3.35 The Riddlers** (7) (5) (607397). **3.45 Disney Cartoon** (7) (5) (1756893). **3.55 The Adventures of Paddington Bear** (7) (5) (378525). **4.15 Captain Jack** (5) (7) (683815). **4.40 Hercules** (7) (670883).
- 5.40 Home and Away** (7) (730089).
- 5.40 News: Weather** (7) (74542).
- 6.00 London Tonight.** Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (7) (67).
- 6.30 Videotech.** Margherita Taylor with the latest charts and "gossip" from the pop world (5) (7) (706).
- 7.00 Emmerdale.** Emma has some new admirers, and Kirsty loses control (5) (7) (763).
- 7.30 Holding the Baby.** ITV has been left holding the baby, in the shape of this dire sitcom about a single father, which "resumes its run after a few weeks' break". Been anywhere near it? (7) (693).
- 8.00 The Bill.** An eccentric witness gives the TV police a difficult time (7) (3051).
- 8.30 Eye of the Storm.** Recalls the day in 1987 when the Taran town of Jarral was hit by a giant tornado. Richard Madeley fronts the bough-in video footage (5) (7) (2189).
- 9.00 Babes in the Wood.** Dine Bliton about three gile about-town, Lesbie boyfingers make a pass at Ruth, and Carolyn meets her doppelgänger (5) (7) (2780).
- 9.30 Male and Peace.** The searside butler in Brian and twin brothers who repeat everything that people say, in the not-exactly-subtle sketch show (5) (7) (62780).
- 10.00 News: Weather** (7) (4032).
- 10.30 London Tonight** (7) (76378).
- 10.40 Crown and Country.** Edward Windsor - yes, the young un - finds royal connections in Hatfield (where Elizabeth II discovered that she was to be queen) and St Albans (5) (655833).
- 11.50 The Warehouse** (5) (133506). **11.40 Prisoner: Cal Black** (7) (45486). **12.40 Millennium** (5) (7) (723420).
- 1.35 Live at the Apollo** (7) (5) (423496). **2.00 Planet Rock** (7) (5) (608072). **2.35 Bob Odenk** (7) (5) (640178). **3.00 Ewan's** (6722379).
- 3.25 The Bill** (5) (612327). **3.50 Best of British Motor Sport** (419739). **4.15 ITN Nightvision** (609062).
- 5.30 ITN Morning News** (65376). To beam.

- 7.00 The Big Breakfast** (25707). **9.00 The Big Breakfast** (3730). **9.30 Cartoon Cinema** (7) (68070). **10.00 The Simpsons** (7) (5) (650070). **10.30 The Secret World of Alex Mack** (7) (689226). **11.20 The Incredible** (602782). **1.35 Australia Wild** (7) (27086893).
- 2.05 [GOLF] Green Grow the Rushes (Desk, Nigel 1951 US).** A fairly aimless whimsy cartoon (no plot) financed by the breakfast production company set up by the firm's British studio, which was hoping to boost the grip of the large British studios at the time. Anyway, it attracted the likes of Richard Briers - in the last film before joining 20th-Century Fox - Honor Blackman and Roger Lacey, as government officials try to stamp out bribery smuggling in Kent (7) (682815).
- 3.30 Watercolour Challenge** (7) (651). **4.00 Pileon to One - the Big Winner** (5) (7) (322). **4.30 Countdown** (5) (7) (345490). **4.55 Ricki Lake** (7) (5) (7) (2514506).
- 5.30 Postcarders.** A teenage girl shows off her collection of replies (5) (7) (789).
- 6.00 Roseanne.** Aging US sitcom repeats. Roseanne's granny comes to stay, and it becomes increasingly clear that she means to move in (7) (5) (7) (159).
- 6.30 Hollywood.** Chester Wernegard, Tony and Janbo bury the hatchet (7) (821).
- 7.00 Channel 4 News: Weather.** Including headlines at 7.30pm (5) (7) (64709).
- 7.55 Litter.** John Hegley performs "Families" (7) (46225).
- 8.00 Moving People.** A police player moves into a new beachside pad, and Chris Berry's Thai bride-to-be is unhappy about their impending marriage (7) (1883).
- 8.30 Classic Remembrance.** John Peel narrates the history of the suburbs, remembering their origins in Utopian plans to rehouse working people from the inner cities (7) (7588).
- 9.00 Cutting Edge: Health Farm.** Another chance to see Stephen Frears's documentary, a bit of a prole about how George one of Britain's most exclusive health farms (7) (5) (7) (8341).
- 10.00 [GOLF] True Stories: Orphans of War.** Danzig, who planned to bring three children out of Afghanistan in order to adopt them in October 1996. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (7) (380964).
- 11.45 Edinburgh or Bust** (652864). **12.20 Coca-Cola Conquest** (7) (652029).
- 1.20 [GOLF] Ruby and Rita** (Gaylene Preston 1990 NZ). Father good Kew comedy drama about an 83-year-old bandy who, after taking in a single mother and her son, gradually wants to her new tenants (39795).
- 3.15 Genderquake** (7) (235679). **3.50 The Food Good** (7) (6028379). **4.20 The Sexual Inquity** (7) (5) (623026). **5.10 Love Life** (7) (623864). To 5.45pm.

- 6.00 5 News and Sport** (5) (673970). **7.00 WorldWorld** (7) (5) (7) (657531). **7.30 Wheelchair** (5) (623531). **7.55 [GOLF] The Big Winner** (5) (623531). **8.00 The Secret World of Alex Mack** (7) (689226). **11.20 The Incredible** (602782). **1.35 Australia Wild** (7) (27086893).
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DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

TRUE STORIES: ORPHANS OF WAR (Don C. 1997). Following photo-journalist Nick Danziger and his attempts to bring up three adopted children from war-torn Afghanistan. A western of the conflict. Danziger set up an orphanage in Kabul five years ago, but the Taliban shut it down. Danziger, therefore, bodily (or toothily) decided to adopt a boy and two girls (he had befriended over the years - the boy had been orphaned from childhood in the West - the children's film charts the first year of their new life in Danziger's wife. In one scene, where he's checking the boy, a more maternal touch might indeed have come in handy.



CHANGING ROOMS (BBC1, right). Avert the Nineties, supposed to be all about nihilism? The decorations faded upon the guests on *Changing Rooms* every week are no 1980s blank wall and wood floors wouldn't make for very exciting television - unlike the theatre-set mountaintops our guest interior designers come up with each week (one couple tonight get a bedroom that would make Rudolph Valentino blush). Having said that, Anna Ryder Richardson does something quite clever with a houseboat in Isleworth.



DIY SHOW OF THE DAY

FAT CITY (10.00pm C5). What a film this could have been, if producer Ray Stark had accepted director John Huston's suggestion of Martin Bregman for the central role of the alcoholic lawyer - one which Bregman wanted to accept. Instead, it went to the dead Stacy Keach, and Huston went off to make something called *Just Tango in Paris*. Ray (7) is still a very good film, though, with Jeff Bridges making up for Keach's lack of charisma as the badly drunk young lawyer whom he takes under his wing. It also features Curtis Cook, a lawyer who had never acted before. Susan Tyrrell and Kris Kristofferson singing. "Help me Make it Through the Night".

FILM OF THE DAY

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